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224

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 6th 1862

Called Session of Alabama Legislature.

By virtue of the powers vested in the Executive by the Constitution of the State of Alabama, I, John Gill Shorter Governor of said State, deeming the present an extraordinary occasion, do issue this, my Proclamation, directing that the two Houses of the General Assembly of said State convene in the State Capitol, at Montgomery, on Monday the twenty seventh day of this present Month, of October.

In testimony where of, I, John Gill Shorter, Governor of the State of Alabama, have hereunto, set my hand, and caused the great Seal of the State to be affixed, this, the sixth day of October, anno Domini, Eighteen hundred & sixty two, and of the independence of the Confederate States, the Second Year.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 6th, 1862.

Brig. Gen. John H. Forney, Head Quarters, Mobile, ala.

Sir, I have the honor to enclose you, herein, a Copy of a letter from Mr L. D. Zantzinger, late Superintendent of Telegraph-line from Mobile to Fort-Morgan. That part of the line extending from Point-Clear to Fort-Morgan, was built by the State of Alabama, and is still the property of the State. As, however, it is important for Army-purposes, I propose to turn over the line to you, or the Confederate Military Department at Mobile, to be controlled & operated during the War, on condition that the line is kept in order, without charge to this State. The property in the line will continue in the State, but the management & direction & use of the same, as above-stated, is hereby relinquished to you, as the Confederate Military officer commanding at Mobile. You will please signify your acceptance of this proposition

Respy, Yr Obt Sert
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov of ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 7th. 1862.

Hon. Geo. S. Walden, Talladega.

Dear Sir,

I beg to enclose you a copy of a letter received at this Department, containing statements in respect to Dr Johnson, Principal of the Institution for the Deaf & Dumb in your town. It is due to Dr Johnson & the State that these charges should be immediately & thoroughly investigated. Not knowing the writer of the letter, I can make no comment upon the significance of his statements, and I entertain no unfavorable impressions, founded upon them, & hope that there may not be the slightest foundation for these speculations. I desire you to ascertain the facts, in the conduct alleged, of both institutions named, and report the same as early as convenient.

Resp'y Yrs
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 7th 1862.

Hon. G. W. Randolph, Sec'y War. Richmond

Sir, I have the honour to enclose Copy of my Proclamation, convening the Legislature of Alabama, on the 27th day of the present month, & to request that orders be given to furlough all members who are in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States, until the close of the Session.

Resp'y, Yr Obt Sert
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala

775

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala, Oct 7th 1862

Mr E. W. Johns, Purveyor's office, C. S. A. Richmond, Va.

Sir; In reply to your communication of the 3d inst., I have to inform you that Contractors for supplying Spirits to the Medical Department of the Confederate Army, will, on application to me, be authorized to have the same or any portion thereof distilled within the Counties of this State when there may be a surplus of grain beyond the local demand for breadstuffs

Very resp'y, Yr obt Ser't.
(signed) Jn° Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 8th 1862.

Mess^rs McClung & Jaques, Saltville, Va.

Gentlemen; I am in receipt of your several letters of 18th & 29th of September, and have delayed my reply, until the arrival of Capt. Speed, on his way to Salfville. I enclose you, herewith, a copy of the letter, from Mess^rs Stewart, Buchanan & Co. to Col. A. G. McGehee, Salt-Commissioner for Alabama, containing their proposition to furnish water sufficient to make from 200 to 300 thousand bushels of Salt per annum, during the War. This proposition I accepted, and diverted the Contract in your favor, as you will better understand, by reference to the enclosed copy of my letter of July 29th, to Mess^rs S. B. & Co., & to your Contract signed with the State. To make 200 or 300 thousand bushels, per annum, will require a Supply of Water to make from 800 to 1000 bushels per day; but Mr Jaques gave assurances that he would erect Furnaces capable of making, only, 500 bushels per day; & if this quantity is not made by you, I shall be greatly disappointed. I observe, you say that Mess^rs S. B. & Co. have agreed to furnish water for only 300 bushels per day, but their proposition provides for more than double that quantity, per day; & if they refuse to furnish it, they will commit a breach of faith, and upon a matter of such vital importance as to merit public censure. I speak plainly, because my duty to the State demands it. And Mess^rs S. B. & Co. can have not the slightest excuse, upon which to predicate their action, as to your Contract was made before any other Alabama Company applied to them, and no subsequent agreements with other Companies can be plead, in extenuation, by them. I have, therefore to repeat, that, as one of your firm has become interested in the Company of Stewart, Buchanan & Co., I shall insist upon a full supply, by that Company, to the firm of McClung & Jaques of water sufficient to make 500 bushels of Salt per day; & upon the duty of your firm to make that quantity, under your Contract with the State of Alabama. And well knowing, from reputation, the character of your firm for integrity & fair dealing, which induced me to make the contract with you, I have only to add, on this point, that I trust you will fully sustain it, by a prompt compliance with the Contract made by me with you, in behalf of the people of Alabama; & I shall not doubt, on this point, until facts prove the contrary.

I am fully sensible of all the difficulties in the way, at a time like this, of rushing ahead, with business, & I sympathize with you in these matters, fully, but in reply to your suggestion as to a modification of the Contract by an advance in the price, I have to say, that the terms have, already, been freely communicated to our people, and were the terms proposed by yourselves, & based, too, on statement that the water would cost 75 instead of 50 cents per bushel, & I would not be justified, in now voluntarily, consenting to any modification, as suggested. Capt Speed has been furnished with a copy of the Contract made with the Alabama Company, & is instructed to shew it to you. I presume it is somewhat different from what you have proposed. For myself, I would, personally, prefer your contract to their's. It is the safest of the two, in my opinion.

Resp'y, &c, (Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

225

226

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Octo 9th 1862

Genl C. J. McRae & Co.

Gentlemen, am in receipt of your favour of 7th inst. Forward account for Salt-pans, to A. J. McGehee, Montgomery, who will pay it. + I have concluded that it will be best, perhaps, to return the bells to the Churches which presented them, & therefore, have to request you, to ship them back to Col. A. B. Clitherall. Mr McGehee will write you today about additional pans, for which Janney has patterns, & has been making some here; but we have not enough, & Janney has no iron. I hope you may be able to furnish the iron needed - say 30 Tons - if you cannot cast them at your works. Both the Army & Navy Department have given orders to continue casting Salt-pans &c. I send yo copies of dispatches from this office, & replies. You must allow for my urgency & anxiety on this subject - growing out of the absolute suffering & distress in the State, which are daily communicated to me.

Respectfully, Yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 10th 1862

Brig Genl John H. Forney, Head Quarters, Mobile.

Sir, I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 8th inst. Enclosed is a copy of Special order, No 60, issued upon affidavits, on file in this Office. A few other orders, of similar character, have been issued in other localities, founded upon the necessities of the Country in respect of Medical supply. If the orders are not violated, they can do little, if any harm. + I also, hand you copies of Genl Order, No 46, Under date of March 17th, 1862, suppressing distilleries, & retailing within ten miles of any military Encampment in the State, whether of State or Confederate Troops. You will please furnish a copy to the Militia officers of the State, in your District, or in the City of Mobile, although they have, heretofore, had them; and notify them that I expect the rigid enforcement of the Order. And, as Executive of Alabama, I respectfully, & urgently request you to aid the Militia Officers of the State, in its Execution.

When our Legislature assembles, I shall invite their early consideration of the questions growing out of the distillation & sale of ardent Spirits in this State, and entertain the confident hope that they will make such provision, as effectually to guard the great interests of the country.

I shall take no further action than indicated in the orders, heretofore issued, untill the Legislature meets.

Very respy, Yr obt Servt
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 10th 1862

Capt. John Hardy, Eufaula, Ala.

Dear Sir, The proposition submitted by the Company under your command, to repair to the Florida Coast, & engage in the making of Salt for consumption in Alabama, & to transport it into the State, & after supplying themselves, to sell it to the State or Citizens of the State, as may elect, at a price not exceeding five dollars per bushel of fifty pounds, is hereby accepted. Should it be needful, the State will make your Company a reasonable advance to encourage your Enterprize, and I hope you will enter upon it at an Early day, and make, and deliver the Salt as rapidly as possible.

Respy Yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

227

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct. 10th, 1862

His Excellency, J. J. Pettus, Governor of Mississippi;

Sir; I have the honor to enclose, herewith, to your Excellency, an account current, (with the papers & vouchers relating to the same) between the State of Mississippi, & the State of Alabama, to which, I would, respectfully, call your attention.

An examination of the papers will show that the account is for Quarter-master-ordnance-subsistence, & Medical Stores, & for transportation- and incidental expenses, issued & furnished to Mississippi troops, at Mobile, in June 1861, en route to Pensacola, by Genl Duff C. Green, Q. M. G. of Ala., under orders of Hon. A. B. Moore, my predecessor in office; and upon the requisitions of the proper Commanding officers of said troops, whose receipts for the Stores &c. as well as their Certificates as to the correctness of the accounts rendered, are thereunto annexed

The balance due to alabama from the State of Mississippi, after allowing credit for the two several payments of $3.828.00 and $.634.28. made, by your Excellency to Genl Green, is $8.532.01; which sum you will please cause to be deposited with Genl Duff C. Green, Q. M. G. of Alabama, at Mobile, at the earliest day practicable.

The papers enclosed are copies from the originals on file, in the office of the Auditor of the Treasury of this State, and the Official certificate of that Officer, you will find attached to them.

I would be happy to hear from your Excellency upon the subject of this letter, at as early a day as may suit your convenience.

I am, very Resp'y, Your Obt Servt
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

2nd to here

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 13th 1862.

Hon. O. M. Avery, Pollard, Alabama.

Sir; I have the honor to acknowledge rec't of your letter of 10th inst, advising me that, as a member of the Florida Legislature, you have in view the agitation of the subject of annexing all west of the Apalachicola river (West Florida) to the State of Alabama—the rest to the State of Georgia; and asking my views upon the subject. I regret that the pressure of official business, at this time, prevents me from replying at such length, as the importance of the question demands; for I verily believe that it can be demonstrated—if all the data were fully ascertained—that it would be to the interest, public & private, of the people of both States, that annexation should occur, in the mode suggested by you. The State of Alabama, heretofore, has indicated its willingness to the annexation of West Florida, the proposition, however, while it was considered by the people of your State, was not favorably received, and was voted down at the Ballot box—a majority—if I recollect correctly—even, of West Florida, voting against it. I think that there can be no question as to the earnestness with which Alabamians would welcome the annexation, if the people of West Florida desired its consummation. In such event—the States concurring, I doubt not the consent of the Confederate Congress would be readily given. Whether the present, however, is the proper time to revive the agitation of the question, I am not prepared to advise. As the proposition came from Alabama before, she will not be so discourteous, as, again, to renew it, or urge it upon the consideration of her Sister State, until Florida may indicate a willingness to to negotiate upon the subject.

Respectfully, Your obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. 14th, Oct. 1862

C. C. Sheets, of Winston Co. Alabama, having been arrested by the Military Authorities of the State, for holding communication with the Enemy, giving them aid and comfort, and inducing Citizens of this State to enlist, as Soldiers, in the Army of the United States, It is Ordered, that the Jailor of Montgomery receive said Sheets into his custody & keeping, and that he detain him, until discharged by due Course of Law.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.
Gov^r of Alabama.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct. 14th 1862.

Mr C. C. Sheets, Montgomery
Sir, Your communication, of to-day, is received, asking the right of Bail, at my hands. In reply, I can say, only, that the right to bail is a question which does not belong to the determination of the Executive

Respectfully Yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Circular

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 9th 1862

Mr R. B. Kyle, Gadsden.
Sir, You are, hereby, appointed Agent of the State of Alabama for the distribution of Salt, in the Counties of DeKalb, Cherokee, St-Clair, Calhoun, & Talladega. + The Salt will be shipped to you, at Gadsden, from Saltville, Va. If you accept of this appointment, you will immediately execute, & return, to this office, the enclosed Bond, with, at least, two securities, to which must be attached the Certificate of the Judge of Probate of Cherokee County, showing that the execution of the Bond was acknowledged before him, and that the persons signing it are good for the amount named in the bond.

You will carefully observe the following instructions. The Salt must be sold for cost & charges, & no more or less. To ascertain this, you will calculate the Cost of the Salt at two dollars per bushel, (including the cost of the Sack) when placed on the Cars at the Salt-works, to which is to be added all the charges for transportation, by railroad & Steamboats, drayage, Wharfage &c., with five per Cent commissions—provided they do not exceed Fifteen Hundred dollars per Annum—to the Agent. In distributing the Salt among said Counties, you will so divide it, as to give to each its due proportion, basing your Calculation on the number of inhabitants in each of said Counties. As the shipments will be made at different times, you will not sell more than one Sack, to any one person, out of the first Shipments received, as the object is to supply each family with some Salt, as soon as possible.

You must sell by the Sack—and not in less quantities—estimating the cost, as above stated, to which you are to add the charges as herein-before instructed. A Sack, holding three bushels, costs six dollars—including the Sack—at the Salt-works. It is impossible to say what you must charge per Sack, until you get the cost of transportation & other charges. This you will ascertain, as the Salt is received by you. You will sell for cash, & report, weekly, in writing, by Mail, the amount sold, and forward the money, rec^d by you from Sales, to the Treasurer of the State, by safe hands, as opportunity may offer, unless otherwise directed. The reason for requiring the Salt to be sold by the Sack, is, that the Salt will be now damp; & must lose by dripping, and there is no way of equalizing the loss, unless it is sold by the Sack (Signed) Yours. Jno Gill Shorter,

v 29 a copy of the preceding Circular was prepared & sent to the address of each of the undernamed individuals.

Agents	Counties		
Gen. S. H. Rayburn,	Marshall & Blount,	at	Guntersville.
Mess. Patton, Donegan & Co.	Madison,	"	Huntsville.
W. N. Walden, Esq.	Morgan, & Lawrence,	"	Decatur.
Felix G. Norman, Esq.	Franklin,	"	Tuscumbia.
Thos E. Lyus, Esq.	Limestone,	"	Athens.
B. A. Harsner, Esq.	Lauderdale,	"	Florence.
R. T. Scott, Esq.	Jackson	"	Scottsville

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Oct 15th 1862.

Hon. S. R. Mallory, Sec'y of the Navy, Richmond.

Sir; By an enactment of the Confederate Congress, the President was authorised to promote fifteen officers of the Navy, from the rank of Lieutenant, to that of Commander, "for gallant & meritorious services"; several promotions have already been made - I am informed, of officers, "for meritorious services," inasmuch as they had superintended the construction of Vessels, & made inventions which, it was believed, would be useful to the Government, in the prosecution of the War. In this connection, I beg to call your attention to the proficiency & skill of Lieut. I. D. Johnston, now commanding the Baltic, or Alabama Ram, at Mobile.

Lieut. Johnston was among the first of the Lieutenants, who resigned their Commissions in the United States' Navy, and applied for Commissions of the same grade, in the Navy of the Confederate States; and had, now, been about eighteen months, in active service. During this time he has superintended the construction of two Gun-Boats, which have been pronounced, by competent Judges, superior to any others of their Class, built in the Confederacy. He, also, devised the plan for converting the Steam-Boat-Baltic - into an iron-clad Gun Boat, & Ram, which was built under his supervision, & has been reported to your Department, as a most serviceable, & efficient vessel of the kind. He has been thirty years in the Naval service, and, I am informed, has always sustained the reputation of an Excellent Officer. And I beg to be permitted to express the hope, that, upon an examination of his merits and "Meritorious services", you may feel at liberty to recommend him to the President, for promotion.

Very Respectfully, Your obt Servt
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Oct 16th 1862

Major Wm G. Swanson, Head Quarters, Camp Watts.

Sir; I have just received a letter from Brig. Gen. Rodes, which I take the liberty of enclosing, & to which your attention is, respectfully, requested.

I hope, most earnestly, that you will be able, under your orders, to furnish Conscripts enough, to fill the ranks of a Brigade, which, by its Discipline in the Camps - and its gallantry in the field, contributed, so largely, to the honor of our State, & the success of our Cause.

Very Respectfully
Your obedt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,
Gov. of Ala.

230

230

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 17th 1862.

His Excellency, John Letcher, Gov" of Virginia, Richmond.

Sir; Having seen your Proclamation prohibiting the export of Salt, from the State of Virginia, I beg leave, respectfully to call your attention to the several contracts with- and in behalf of the State of Alabama, for Salt, at the works at Saltville.

This State has a contract with mess" McClung & Jaquet, to continue during the war - & in any event, for not less than 100.000 bushels; and, also, with "the Alabama Salt-Manufacturing Company", represented by the Hon David Clopton, for five Hundred bushels per day, & to the esitent of fifty thousand bushels, at least.

The Counties of Cherokee, Morgan, DeKalb, Marshall & Blount (or St Clair) as counties, entered upon the manufacture for their own supply, to be sold to their own citizens, at cost of production, and filed with the Proprietors, at Saltville, their relinquishment of their quota from the State-Contracts, & should properly be considered, as on the footing of the State, as to exemption from the prohibition of your State, their object being the same, to wit; the increased developement of production, & the prevention of forestalling & extortion. Another inducement, also, addresses itself in their favor, in the fact that their supply of Salt has, heretofore, been largely obtained from the Saltville works. Mr Macfarlane is the Agent & Representative of these Counties.

To avoid & obviate future difficulties in obtaining transportation for Salt-made by these Companies - for the State of Alabama, your Excellency will greatly oblige me, by forwarding me, at an early day, separate orders, permitting each of these Companies to ship, out of your State, the Salt manufactured by them, under their respective Contracts, for the State of Alabama, or the Counties enumerated.

I approve, most heartily, of the prohibition upon exportation, believing it one of the readiest steps to relieve the people from the most odious extortion.

Very Resp'y Yr Obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov" of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Oct 18th 1862.

Maj Gl. G. Swanson, Head-quarters, Camp Watts.

Sir; I have just heard, that Mr C. M. Dillard, of this City who is in the employ of the State, & who has been so for some time, as one of the State-Agents, in conducting our Salt-operations, has been enrolled by an enrolling officer here, and ordered to report at Camp-Watts, on Tuesday next. The fact of Mr Dillard's employment by the State was well-known to the Enrolling Officer, and, in our present emergency, to be thus interfering with the State-administration, is trifling with the State Authorities. By the new Exemption-Law, Mr Dillard is expressly exempted. His services here are required almost every hour of the day, and are indispensable, & I have ordered him to remain at his post. I trust you will give your Enrolling-Officers such instructions, as will forbid their interference with those State-Officers, who are exempted from enrollment.

Respectfully,
Your obt Serv't
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,
Gov" of Ala.

231

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 18th 1862;

Messrs McClungs Jaques, Saltville, Va.

Gentlemen; I am in rec't of your letter of 13th inst., and, in reply, would state, that a copy of Gov Letcher's Proclamation having been sent to me, by a Member of Congress from this State, I have addressed a letter to him, requesting his written permission for Shipment of Salt, made for the State of Alabama, and expect a favorable reply.

I hope no interference will be had, and assure you that I will, at all times, be ready to do all in my power to further the completion of your Contract with this State. I believe the representations already made to Gov Letcher, will be sufficient to secure you from any annoyance, under his Proclamation.

Very Respectfully, Yours.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala, Oct 20th 1862.

Dr F. A. Bates, Marion, Ala.

Sir; Your letter of the 6th inst, would have been earlier answered, but for the great pressure of business, on anticipation of the approaching session of the Legislature. Your resignation is accepted; and, in this connection, I desire to express to you, my warm approval of your acts, in discharge of your duties, as Surgeon of the Alabama Military Hospital, & my grateful thanks for your efficiency & zeal. Your report is, in all things, Satisfactory. You will please cause Mr Lawson to report to you, instead of direct to me.

The account, sent by Gov Moore, has been, duly, filed, audited, & allowed, & the money paid into the Treasury by him. You will please direct Mr Lawson to forward the six boxes of Hospital Stores to Gen D. C. Green, Quarter-Master, Mobile, & have the Stores at Selma & Marion, shipped to Col. W. R. Pickett, A. Q. M. Montgomery.

Very Respectfully, Yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 21st 1862.

Messrs Jno W. Harper, A. C. Gordon, M. E. Owens, & John C. Price,
Committee of Henry Lodge, No 91.

Gentlemen; Your favor of 17th inst., enclosing resolutions of your Lodge, and notifying me of the donation of the Carpet of the Lodge to shield our brave Soldiers from the blasts of Winter, has been received. Though agreeably affected by this gift to our Common Cause, I am not surprised - because fully prepared - for any sacrifice from the body you represent. When the history of the generous deeds of our Revolution is written, the Grand & Subordinate Lodges will find a bright particular page.

You will please state whether you will designate any particular Service, to which you wish your gift applied.

The Resolutions accompanying have been furnished to the City Press for publication.

Trusting that the valor of the objects of your bounty, under the guidance and Protection of the Great Master of Nations, may soon enable us to meet around peaceful altars,

I am, for our common Country,

Gratefully,
Your obedient Servant

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

132

237

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 22d, 1862.

To his Excellency,
Jefferson Davis, Pres't C. S. A. Richmond, Va.

Sir; I telegraphed you on the — for the reason that I was seriously alarmed, both for Pollard & Mobile, and because I was satisfied that there was an urgent necessity that no time should be lost in strengthening each of these points. I have, recently, visited mobile, for the purpose of informing myself of the true condition of our defenses there; which, I am sorry to say, I found any thing, but satisfactory. I have no complaint to make of Gen[l] Forney — far from it! I regard him as a most valuable & efficient officer, and am satisfied that, with the means at his command, he has effected as much — & perhaps, more than any other man could; he ~~has lost~~ but his health is far from good, & he has had too much to do. His command is widely scattered; and with the exception of Col. Powell, commanding at Fort Morgan, and Capt. DuBarry, his chief of artillery, he has scarcely another officer, on whom he can fully rely. I do not intend to speak disparagingly: they are brave and gallant men, but they are Volunteer officers, who, with very few exceptions, have never known — and can scarcely comprehend — what true discipline & effective organization is. The batteries along the Bay are manned with troops, or quasi as infantry, with the exception of one small battalion, and a very large majority are fresh levies, ignorant of — & indeed, without the means of competent instruction in the service of heavy guns. With any thing like a strong force — and such, we may rest assured, will be brought against it, — I have but little doubt that the city can be taken. The men at Forts Morgan, & Gaines — if not driven from their guns — will find their ammunition expended, in a prolonged contest; and although the batteries and obstructions along the bay, would present more serious obstacles, if the guns were properly served, — as it is, I believe they can be passed. That the troops are, mostly, fresh, undisciplined, and unskilled in the particular service, upon which the safety of the City mainly depends, is bad enough; but, with all this, they are deficient in numbers. I have the official returns before me, & find that the whole effective force about the city & along the Bay-shore batteries, does not exceed 2850. At Fort Morgan there are 660; at Fort Gaines 460; on Perdido Bay 170; at Pascagoula 70; and along the Coast between Pascagoula & Pearl River 200; Summing up 4410; of these there are

Infantry 2830; Cavalry 948; Artillery 632.

At Pollard, the effective force is but 1780; of

Infantry 1059; Cavalry 588; Artillery 133 — battery of 6 pieces

The total effective Land force in the Gulf District, being 6190; scattered through a wide extent of Country — poorly disciplined — badly armed raw troops, to defend the only Gulf-Port, of any importance, which is left us, and one of the most important lines of communication, in the Confederacy; A force which, small as it is, could not be concentrated at either one point, without exposing the other.

There are, now, at Pensacola, 4000 troops, — inclusive of the Garison — and rumor, among them, tells that 5000 more are daily expected from the North. There are 30 vessels in the harbor. Butler has been there, for some days, and it is evident, from their activity, that some movement is contemplated. Five hundred of the Enemy were at Milton, on Blackwater Bay on the 15th & 16th, and we have strong evidence that disloyal citizens of Florida, along the line, have been busy in surveying the best route to Pollard which is distant — not more than 28 miles, through a high-dry champaign country, from a landing-point a few miles above Milton and accessible to Vessels of not more than six or seven feet draft. As things now stand, if

the Enemy were to make a demonstration on Mobile, and thus prevent reinforcements being drawn from there, 2000 men could take Pollard.

I have deemed it a matter of simple duty, on my part, to lay before you these facts, to show the grounds of my apprehension, and the necessity of increasing the forces strengthening the defenses, both at Mobile & Pollard, if it can possibly be done, consistently with the public interests. Pollard taken, and with the present stage of the Alabama, and its probable stage until the middle or last of December, it would be, almost, an impossibility to transport, largely, either Troops or supplies through that Channel. We have, in the River Counties of the Alabama & the Bigbee, upwards of 230.000 Slaves. In some neighbourhoods, there are not more than one white man to a thousand Slaves; and, in Marengo, & some of the other Counties off from the direct lines of communication, a spirit of insubordination had, already, manifested itself. Should Mobile be taken, & the river pass into the possession of the Enemy, every one of these Slaves would be at their mercy, & the probable results I need not depict. Neither is it necessary, in such an event, to advert to the destruction of the Rail Road connection, at this point, of the public property, work-shops, & foundries, here, and at Selma & Gainesville, or to the moral effect in disputing our own people, & inspiriting the Enemy. But what, perhaps, in a military aspect, is still more deserving of consideration, is the fact, that should Mobile & the Rail-Roads radiating from it, pass into the possession of the Enemy, the trans-Mississippi region must, eventually, be cut off by a belt of Country as wide as the State of Mississippi, & one half of Alabama. So far as the cost of defending this line of communication, & making Mobile impregnable, you will, I am sure, agree with me, that it is not to be taken into consideration. This State had better expend twenty millions of dollars, if her safety could be ensured by the Expenditure. We have not been without some experience as to what occupation by the Enemy means. It has been most sensibly impressed upon us, in the wide-Spread destruction and desolation, which has covered North Alabama, & which is but an earnest of what the South ern portion of the State might expect, under a similar visitation.

This, however, would mainly affect Alabama; & the common cause, only as Alabama is connected with it: but what could possibly, be more disastrous to the Common Cause, than the isolation of the region I have referred to. If Charleston & Savannah, both, were taken, great as the Calamity would be — the results would not extend far beyond the limits of those Cities. But, not so, in the other event. The deep interest I feel in Alabama, may have exaggerated, in my own mind, the importance of strengthening the defenses at the points to which I have referred, but my firm conviction is, that, with Mobile taken, & Pollard, & the Alabama river in the possession of the Enemy, the Revolution could not long survive. If Mobile is to fall, I earnestly hope that orders will be given, that not one stone should be left upon another. Let the Enemy find nothing but smoking & smouldering ruins to gloat over. I am grateful for the aid which, the Telegram of the Secretary of War advises me, had already been extended. Gen[l] Cumming has a high reputation, which, I have no doubt, he merits; and I have the utmost confidence in the Capacity of Gen[l] Leadbetter, as an Engineer. They will be of material service, but, you will excuse me for saying that, we require a strong reinforcement of Men.

The effective Strength of the Regiments which has been ordered back, is 406, only, and would swell the entire land forces — to defend the City, the rivers & the Rail-Road, to 8500. Can it be supposed that the Enemy does not fully appreciate the importance of the acquisition of South Alabama, with Pensacola as a base? or that he will fail even to use the greatest exertions to accomplish a result, vitally injurious to us? The State will most cheerfully co-operate with the Confederate Government, to the fullest extent of her ability; but she can do but little, except in furnishing Slave-labor, which, I have not the least doubt, can be supplied to any extent, under the action of the Legislature, which meets on monday next. Our few remaining arms, I have placed at the disposal of Gen[l] Forney

I feel that I have already extended this Communication to perhaps, an unwarrantable length; but I feel, also, that the course, which Alabama has taken from the commencement of this contest, entitles one to do so, without excuse or apology. And if the forces requisite to defend her soil, can be employed elsewhere with more benefit to the cause we all have so much at heart, be assured, I shall not complain, if they are refused.

I am gratified to learn that you have, already, acted on the amendment to the Conscript Act, and, recognizing its prompt & efficient execution as, absolutely, essential to our success, shall, most cheerfully, co-operate in any measures you may take to enforce it. I would suggest, however, that it would be well, in this State, that those having the appointment of Enrolling Officers, should select none but those who would discharge their duties, with efficiency, & without favor. I have taken the liberty of making this suggestion, because, I have reason to believe, that some of the Enrolling Officers have been wanting in these particulars.

Very Respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant,
(signed) Jn° Gill Shorter,
Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. Oct. 29th 1862.

Maj. Alb. G. Swanson, Head Quarters, Camp-Watts.

Sir; From the tone of your last letter, in reply to mine of the 18th inst., I fear that you applied to yourself the remark made about "trifling with the State-authorities." The past—as well as the present of our personal & official relations forbids the use, gratuitously, of any uncivil word towards you; & I, therefore regret that in the hurry of Correspondence, I should have failed to qualify language, which seems to have been mis-applied, and, also, to have betrayed you into the use of an unnecessary retort, as you supposed, in reply. Overwhelmed, as I am, with work, and with a naturally patient temper, layed to its utmost capacity of endurance, I know how to make all needful & proper allowances for others in like condition; & Sympathize with you in every occasion of annoyance, while engaged in the faithful discharge of your duties.

You say that you have no official knowledge that Mr Dillard is exempt from Enrollment, and that you can't bend the Law to suit this case, however useful he might be to the State, & all this may be so: admit it—and then, I think you will agree with me that, in his case, & any similar one of an officer in the service of the Executive of the State, notice to the Executive should be given that the officer was claimed for Military Service, in order that, if the claim be conceded, his place might be supplied, or, if disallowed by the Executive, an agreed statement—not an ex-parte one should be submitted to the Secretary of War, for his decision. I hardly suppose that you knew any thing about Mr Dillard's employment by the State, or the duties which are assigned to him, in the Salt-operations of the State, & though you may have referred his case to the Secretary of War, I am not sure that you are able to present the case fully, without knowing all the facts yourself. I presume you do not require to be officially advised, that the Executive, Judicial & Legislative officers of the State, are not subjects for enrollment, for Congress has has expressly exempted them, by positive law, which, neither the Secretary of War nor any other officer under him, with or without instructions, can violate. So Congress, in the same law, which you, doubtless, possess, have exempted "all Superintendents, managers, &c" engaged in the manufacture of Salt. My opinion is, that the duties performed by Mr Dillard bring him under this provision of the Law, but I may be mistaken. The day he was ordered to report at Camp-Watts, he dis-

V 35

bursed over $7000 for the State, in her Salt-operations. He is the only Superintendent or manager of the State Salt-works, in the City, & the propriety of submitting the question of his exemption to the Secretary of war, before ordering him away from his post, you will at once see & admit. I have no desire to screen Mr Dillard, or any other man, from Conscription, who is liable; on the contrary, I am, more than ever, anxious for a rigid enforcement of the Law, and am gratified to hear that the President has called for all under forty years of age; and I will aid you, in every way in my power, to get all in, who are embraced by the Law. There shall be no conflict — but harmony in the administration of the Law, if your enrolling Officers will observe that courtesy which is due the State Authorities from them. I do not know all the men employed in the different departments of the State Government. There may be some of them who are liable to Conscription. If so, & I am notified of the facts, they will be cheerfully given up; & if doubts or difference of opinion arise, as to their liability, I will abide, as cheerfully, the decision which the Secretary of War may make in the premises.

Resp'y, Yr obt Sert
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov^r of Ala.

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Executive Department,
Montgomery Ala. Oct 24th, 1862.

Jno I. Delchamps, Esq^r & others, Committee, Mobile.

Gentlemen, Your communication of the 20th inst. has been received, & has received from me, the consideration, which the importance of the subjects involved demands. Much that is contained in your resolutions belongs, exclusively to the Confederate authorities; and from the method, at present adopted, for the Execution of the Conscript act, I doubt not, has received their attention, & that some of the evils mentioned will find a remedy. The other matters specified will no doubt receive the consideration of the Legislature, now soon to convene.

It is highly gratifying to me to observe the self-sacrificing spirit which characterizes many — may I not say the majority? — of the citizens of Mobile, determined to resist, to the last extremity, the invasion of their ruthless foe, and to leave to him but a barren victory, in case of his ultimate success. Warned by the example of New Orleans, I feel assured that they will emulate the Heroism of Vicksburg; & that the defense of Mobile will be a bright & noble page in the History of our Revolution.

When the time of your trial comes, I think you may safely trust to the genius, bravery & Skill of the General entrusted with the command; and I feel assured that he will not be wanting in his duty to the Vampires, who feed on the life-blood of Communities, & the Skulkers who refuse the duties of the Common defense.

So far as the State is concerned, I shall cheerfully co-operate with any action, which the wisdom of the Legislature may adopt to the patriotic ends which your association desires to attain, & trust we may be guided, by Infinite Wisdom, to the attainment of an Independence, complete, in all respects.

I am, Very Resp'y
Yr obt Sert
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 24th 1862.

Hon Thos. H. Watts, at Home,

Dear Sir, It will be, not only personally, agreeable to me to meet you, but I desire an interview with you, at your earliest convenience, upon the subject of our public defenses, & therefore, hope it may be agreeable & convenient for you to call, tomorrow, at the Capitol, between 10, a.m. & 2, p.m.

Very respectfully & truly, Yours,
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter,
Gov^r of Ala.

2-36

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 24th 1862.

Hon. W. W. Coltart, mayor &c, Huntsville, Ala.

Sir; Your letter of 15th inst. is just at hand, informing me of the fact that a large number of Socks might be purchased at your place, if any one were authorised to do so by the State. I suggest that, for the present, you appoint some one to do so, and as the purchase would be a deed of charity, to the poor, that some of your benevolent citizens advance the necessary funds, which will be repaid by the State, with expenses, on receipt of the Socks. In this manner, a small sum could be made to subserve the purpose of large relief without loss to the Contributors.

When the Legislature meets, & I can confer with the members, I will perfect other needful arrangements.

Very Respectfully, Yours
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. 21st Oct. 1862.

Christopher C. Sheets having surrendered himself a prisoner to troops in the service of the State of Alabama; and there being probable ground to believe that the said Sheets is guilty of treasonable correspondence with the Enemy — and the facts having been reported to the Secretary of War of the Confederate States, who has directed his removal to the Confederate States' prison, at Salisbury, North Carolina; you are, therefore, ordered to detail from your command, a Guard of two men, to convey said Sheets to said Prison, and deliver him to the keeper of the same; filing with the said Keeper, a copy of this order, and taking his receipt for him as a prisoner.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

To Col. M. W. Hannon;
Com'd'g 23 Reg't ala Part. Rangers,
Montgomery

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 25th 1862.

Hon. Geo. W. Randolph, Secretary of War, Richmond;

Sir; Mr E. M. Dillard, employed in the office of the Commissioner of Salt-works, for the State of Alabama, at this place, and absolutely essential to the proper conduct of the business of that office, has been enrolled, by the Enrolling Officer of this District, & was, by him, required to report, early in this week to Maj. Swanson, at Camp Watts. Mr Dillard reported the fact to me and asked instructions as to his duty. Knowing the great importance to the State of his presence at his post, I instructed him to remain, and wrote to Major Swanson to suspend his enrollment, if not fully satisfied of his exemption, until the matter could be referred to you.

He replies to me that he had dispatched to you, by Telegraph, for instructions. Knowing that all the facts necessary for your decision, could not thus, be properly brought before you, I submit the following summary, many of the points of which, are applicable to other cases which may arise, under the Exemption Act, not only in this but in other States.

Apprehending the destitution of Salt likely to come upon our people, I early entered upon the work of carrying out what I knew to be the views of the Legislature of this State, and not being able to induce individuals to undertake the manufacture to the required extent, I appointed Mr McGehee Commissioner & Supervisor of the Salt-works of the State, with instructions to proceed, at once to the erection of Furnaces, buildings, &c. To accomplish this — and to carry on the manufacture, necessitated the employment of from 200 to 300 hands, overseers, workmen &c & required the continued presence of the Commissioner, at the works.

An agent or Superintendent of the office here was needed, for the hire of hands, the purchase of material, wagons, teams, provisions &c to provide trans-

portation to receive & pay-out money, keep the accounts, receive shipments, & extend the orders of the Commissioner.

In the inception of the work, the extent of which may be judged from the number of hands it employed more than three months ago, Mr Dillard received the appointment, and has continued ever since, in the discharge of its duties; To take him from it now, would seriously embarrass & retard, if not suspend the State operations.

If the Employees of the State-Commissioner cannot be considered Executive Officers of the State, I respectfully submit that a fair construction of the Exemption Act requires that they be classed as managers of Salt-works, engaged in the production & manufacture of Salt. The performance of their respective duties, in their several spheres, is as important to success, as the performance of the duties of the General Superintendent, or those of the Laborer. The extended works of the State-intended for the ultimate production of one thousand bushels per day requires a competent & energetic Super-intendent- and a complete & perfect classification of his Subordinate Departments. For purposes of economy to the State, as few of few of these have been created as was consistent with the importance of the object to be attained. And the few officers employed- I earnestly hope- may be allowed to remain at their posts, without molestation. The great expenditure of this State, for the manufacture of Salt, has not been made without full consideration of its necessities, and an abiding conviction, that it was to perform its part, in the defense of our Country. With all our endeavours, we will fail to secure an adequate supply for the wants of our people, which cry as loudly for the means of subsistence- to be secured through this Staple, as for defence from an invading foe.

I have, elsewhere & frequently, given you my views, upon the expediency & Constitutionality of the Law; to provide further for the public defense, and the assurance of my co-operation to enforce its provisions.

Very Resp'y, Your obedient Ser't,
(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala: Oct 25th, 1862.

Col. Wm Dunn, Chairman of Committee of Vigilance, Mobile, Ala.

Dear Sir; Anxious as I am that no means shall be spared for the protection & defense of Mobile, I beg to call your attention to the beneficial influence which may be exercised by combined effort & co-operation, on the part of leading citizens of your city, in aid of the Military and Naval Authorities. They should have the active, energetic support of the Community, at all times, in order to accomplish the best results, and this can be afforded, I think, most efficiently, through the organization of which you are Chairman; and there may be matters which they may overlook, or not be able to accomplish, which can be achieved by the Vigilance Committee. The time has arrived when the public danger demands the best efforts of all our best, wisest, & truest men, for the common protection. Without assuming to dictate to you, or the experienced, patriotic gentlemen, with whom you are associated, I beg to suggest a re-organization of your Committee, for active co-operation, & support of our military & naval commanders. Some of your body may have joined the Army- or left the city, & one or more- I think, has died. It may be found advisable to add others to the number, who may be willing to continue their services; and, from their character & standing, I would suppose, that such gentlemen as H. D. Smith, Jesse Carter, J. D. Jones, W. A. Smith, Percy Walker, J. W. Garner, Alfred Babze, C. W. Bitt, & Thos Henry, and others like them, would, cheerfully, contribute their services in the present emergency. I deem this matter of so great importance, that I beg to trouble you with these suggestions. All of you, I know, are ready to do whatever you can, for the Country; and receiving assurances, on my part, to contribute to the extent of my ability, I am,

Respect'y, Yr obt Serv't, (Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter.

738

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Oct 25th 1862

Hon: G. W. Randolph, Secretary of War, Richmond.

Sir; The frequent inquiries at this Department, as to the enrollment of Commissioned Officers of the State-Militia, and the representations of want of uniformity of practice on the part of the Enrolling officers, induce me to request that you will favor me with a copy of the instructions given to Enrolling officers upon this subject, and, also, an intimation of your proposed action under the late Exemption act, with reference to Militia Officers.

I have given a ready and earnest support to the provisions of the act, and am not inclined to make captious objections to its exercise; but I desire uniformity in administration, that the law may operate equally & alike, upon all, & that I may be able to give certain & intelligible answers to the numerous inquiries addressed me upon the subject. Nor am I inclined to screen Militia Officers from Service, especially now, that their Commands are so limited in consequence of the Enrollment of the greater portion of the Militia in the Confederate Service, and I desire, only, that the Rule for Alabama shall be identical with that for her Sister States.

I am induced to make this request, because I find it impossible to understand the varied practice of the enrolling officers; having, now, before me, a letter from a Major General of one Division, who informs me that in one of his Regiments, three officers are enrolled & not in the others.

In some regiments, the Commission exempts, regardless of date of Commission or time of Election; in some, evidence of date election is allowed to supply evidence of rank attained previous to the passage of the Act; in others, the date is held conclusive. Heretofore, in this State, the Commission has been but little regarded by officers, the Election conferring the authority, and the Commission being but the evidence. Hence Commissions bore only the date of issuance, without any reference to the date of Election, all questions of rank being easily settled by reference to the records of the Adjutant Generals Office.

Some fixed, & definite rule, too, should be adopted, in reference to officers newly-elected, to fill vacancies in the Militia. If the old officers are exempted, reason would dictate that the efficiency of the Militia would be as much impaired by the enrollment of one class of officers, as the other.

I would thank you for the information requested, at as early a day as the duties of your office will permit.

Very Resp'y Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov'r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Alabama, Oct. 25th 1862

Maj'r Gen'l Allen Kerr, Commanding 3d Div. M.M. Greensboro, Ala.

Sir, I am in receipt of your letter of 22d inst, in relation to the Enrollment of Militia-officers, in the Regiments in Greene County, & have referred the matter to the Secretary of War, & requested copies of his instructions.

If the Enrolling-officer has not positive Instructions relative to their enrollment, he should suspend his acts until an answer can be had. A reference, by them, to Major Walthall, commanding at Talladega, will determine the question of instructions, & whether the subordinate officers are exceeding their duty.

Very Respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,

Governor of Alabama.

V 39

An appeal to the People for the Public defense.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct. 23d 1862.

Six hundred serviceable hands are required, to complete the defenses at Mobile. There is not a day nor an hour to be lost; that point is already threatened, and if taken, every Slave in the valleys of the Alabama & the Bigbee will be at the mercy of the Enemy. Mobile cannot be successfully defended, without the labor of these hands; and if the Slave holders are unwilling to furnish the small amount that is absolutely necessary to give protection to their property, & security to their hearthstones, let them not complain if the one is destroyed, & the other outraged.

Let Montgomery, Lowndes, Dallas, Marengo, Perry, & Wilcox send one hundred each, and, in less than sixty days, Mobile will be safe! Montgomery & Lowndes should be ready to send the portion of Slaves allotted to each, by Saturday or Sunday next, on the rail-roads; Dallas & Perry, by Steamboats, on Monday & Tuesday; & Marengo & Wilcox, on Wednesday & Thursday.

I appeal to the leading, the influential, & the patriotic citizens of the Counties I have named, at once to appoint Committees to raise the required number of Slaves, & have them ready for Steamboat & Rail-Road, on the days appointed.

I have not extended this call to other Counties, on account of the delay it would occasion, & because the exigency demands the immediate service.

The Owners will be allowed a dollar a-day, for each Slave, to commence from his embarkation, on river or Rail-Road; transportation, subsistence, & medical attendance will be furnished. Each Slave must be provided with either a Spade or Shovel—axe or pick, clothing, bedding & provision to last to Mobile. The owners of each twenty-five will be allowed to select a white man, who will be paid two dollars a day, to attend upon & superintend the Slaves, under the direction of the officer in charge of the defenses. The point where labor is required, is on the Bay of Mobile—perfectly healthy. Steamboats will always be in readiness to transport them out of the reach of danger, should it be necessary, and I am authorised to give every assurance that they will be properly treated & cared for, in every respect.

I trust the appeal will be cheerfully & promptly responded to, involving as it does, the highest & dearest interests of South-Alabama. I dislike exceedingly, to resort to co-ercive measures, but the danger is imminent and the demand imperative, and if the hands are not voluntarily furnished, the Committees which are appointed by the citizens in each County, are invested with the authority to impress the Slaves into the service of the State. The occasion fully justifies the exercise of this power.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.
Gov of Alabama.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 27th 1862

Hon. G. W. Randolph, Secretary of War.
Sir;

On receipt of your dispatch advising the withdrawal of labor from the Rail-Road in West Alabama, I dispatched one of my aids—Gn Governor A. B. Moore, to examine into the matter. Enclosed, I hand you copy of a letter, this day received from him, by which, you will be pleased to learn, that the difficulties in the way have been overcome, and that the work is rapidly progressing to a Completion.

Very Resp'y

Your Obt Se.t
(Signed.) Jno Gill Shorter
Gov of Ala.

240

240

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 27th 1862.

Col. L. C. Garland, Head-quarters, University of Ala-

Sir; I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Report submitted by you, under date of the 16th inst; exhibiting "the number of Officers, Cadets, & other persons, on duty at the Institution, with a full return of the number, and condition of the public arms and other property - deposited at the University."

The prosperous condition of the University must be a cause of sincere gratification to all its friends & patrons in the State. It is, surely, most gratifying to myself.

I regret the loss sustained by the issue of its arms and accoutrements to the Military guards of the Confederate States, and will, with great pleasure, exert my best efforts, to supply the requisition you have submitted. The Blank Commissions requested have, already, been forwarded by Mail.

Very Respectfully, Your Obt Servt
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Oct. 28th 1862

Mrs Doct Robert J. Ware;

Madam; I am, this morning, in receipt of your truly-seasonable, and acceptable donation of Fifty pair of Socks, for the use of the Alabama Soldiers. It affords me the higher gratification, as an evidence of the devoted Patriotism - & generous sensibility of the Ladies of Alabama, to whom no appeal, in behalf of the Country, is ever made in vain. Be pleased to accept my most heartfelt thanks in the name of the brave Soldiers of Alabama, who, on every field, have proved themselves worthy of the lavish generosity of the Ladies of the State.

* As it would be impossible, & perhaps invidious, for me to select, from the sixty or seventy thousand Soldiers of Alabama the objects of your generosity; Will you not please to designate the Company, & Regiment or Brigade in which they shall be distributed?

Very Respectfully, Madam,
Your Obedient Servant
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.
Govr of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 28th 1862.

Mrs. H. V. Ware, Shiloh, Marengo Co. Ala.

Madam; I am, this morning, in receipt of your truly elegant donation, to the Hospitals, at Richmond, of a "Confederate Bonnet" made of the Palmetto of our own State, to be disposed of, by Mrs Hopkins, for the benefit of the Hospitals, & a suit of Clothes for some destitute Soldier in Virginia.

It is the more valuable and gratifying to me, as an evidence of the true Spirit of patriotism which pervades the Women of our State, and of the extent of its resources in all things pertaining to substantial comforts & the luxuries & adornments of life.

I will take great pleasure in transmitting your gift, with the accompanying letter, & trust that He, to whom your appeal, may bless it to the comfort of a gallant Soldiery, battling for the fame of our Women, as well as for the independence of our Land, and that His blessing may be returned, with cheering influence, to your own heart.

Very Respectfully, Madam,

Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala.

241

The State of Alabama,

To all to whom these Presents may come, Greeting.

Know Ye, that Joseph H. Bradford is, hereby, appointed Agent for the State of Alabama, for the purpose of obtaining a supply of Salt, from the Salt-mines in Louisiana, and, as such, duly authorised to make Contracts-binding on the State for the same-to obtain transportation-employ subordinates-and, generally, to take all such measures, & make, on the part of the State, such contracts, as may, in his judgement, be necessary to advance the chief object of his agency.

To this end, all officers of this State are directed, and enjoined to afford him every assistance they can render, and the Confederate officers-especially the transporting Agents of that Government, as well as the authorities of other States, are requested to aid the State of Alabama, in accomplishing a result so important and beneficial to its Citizens, by affording all reasonable and proper facilities for transportation & passage consistent with the public interests they represent.

In Witness whereof, I, Jno Gill Shorter, Governor of the State of Alabama, have hereto set my hand, on this, the twenty eighth day of October, A.D. 1862, & caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed.

By the Governor,
(Signed) P. H. Brittan,
Sec'y of State.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter
Governor of Alabama.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 28th 1862.

His Excellency, Thomas O. Moore, Governor of Louisiana.

Sir; The bearer, Col. Joseph H. Bradford, is the duly-accredited agent of the State of Alabama, to visit the Salt-deposites, near New-Iberia, Louisiana, vested with plenary power to contract for the purchase & transportation of the Salt.

Any representations made by Col. Bradford may be fully relied upon, and this State will fullfil any Contracts which may be made by him.

I respectfully, request, that, where it may be needed, & where its exercise may be proper or pertinent, he may have the benefit of your official influence.

Very Respectfully, Yr Obt Servt
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct. 28th, 1862.

His Excellency, John J. Pettus, Governor of Mississippi.

Sir; The bearer, Col. Joseph H. Bradford, is the duly-accredited agent of the State of Alabama, to visit the Salt-Deposites, near New-Iberia, Louisiana, invested with plenary powers to contract for the purchase & transportation of Salt for the State.

Any statements or representations made by Col. Bradford may be fully relied upon; and any contracts, made by him, will be fully underwritten by the State.

I, respectfully, request for him, your Official influence, in any case where he may need it-& where its exercise may be proper or prudent.

Very Respectfully, Your obt Servt
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Oct 28th, 1862

John M. Lampley, Esq
Dear Sir; I thank you, most sincerely, for your letter from New-Iberia, & for the exertions you have made for the State of Alabama, in the procurement of Salt from the Louisiana mine.

As the necessities of our people are great & immminent; and as you stated in your letter, that you would be absent in Texas, for five or six Weeks, I feared that the interests of State would suffer, by delay;

and I thought I desired to secure your services for the State, time was too pressing to await your return.

I have, therefore, appointed Col. Joseph H. Bradford, Agent for the State, and instructed him to proceed, at once, to Louisiana, to contract for the State. If, on your return, you can render him any assistance, consistently with your private interests, Col. Bradford has been instructed to secure your Co-operation, which, I hope, you will be able to give.

Very Respectfully, Yours,
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct. 29th, 1862

Col. R. J. Scott, Scottsboro' Alabama.

Sir, I am happy to be in receipt of your letter of the 24th, & will give you further instructions, whenever the same may be necessary.

It is to the interest alike of the people and the State, to receive the Confederate notes, and the same have been made, by law, receivable in payment for all public dues. You will, therefore, receive them, in payments made for Salt; & so long as you consider the Huntsville Bank a safe Depository, you will continue to use it as such.

You will receive, from me, a copy of my message to the Legislature, on Yesterday, which will show the extent of my operations to provide Salt for the people.

By a letter from Capt. Speed, agent at Saltville, dated 20th inst. he informs me of his arrival, with a Car-load of Sacks, & of his expectation to commence shipping immediately. I hope soon to receive (800) eight hundred Bushels per day.

Very Respectfully, Yours,
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 30th, 1862.

Mrs Caroline J. Hausman, Prest of the H. L. S. & B. S. Montgomery, Ala.

Madam, It is with no little emotion that I receive the donation of Socks, from the Society you represent, for the benefit of our gallant Soldiers. This devotion and sacrifice of our noble women, with their fervent prayers for "the help of the Being above", will, I doubt not, bring "Victory to our banners", and "peace to our glorious Confederacy".

Will you please designate the individuals— company or regiment, to be the objects of your bounty, as it is impossible for me to discriminate among the 50000 Soldiers from alabama.

I am, Madam, your obliged Servant
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala Oct 30th 1862

Hon: S. R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy, Richmond.

Sir, I am in receipt of your letter, of Oct 23, requesting release of jurisdiction, by the State of Alabama, to the Confederate Government, of location for a Foundry & Rolling-Mill, &c for Manufacture of heavy Ordnance, & will take great pleasure in bringing it to the notice of the Legislature, now in Session, for their action, of the favorable nature of which, I have no doubt.

Very Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant

(signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of ala

243

Executive, Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 30th 1862

Col. D. M. Seals, Clayton, Ala.

Sir: I am in receipt of your Communication of the 27th instant, tendering your resignation, as Aid-de-Camp to the Executive. In this notice of my acceptance of your resignation, I beg to tender you my sincere thanks, for the efficient manner in which you have discharged your duty, as well as the cordial support you have ever extended to

Your friend,
(signed) In° Gill Shorter. Gov° of Ala.

index to here

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 31st 1862.

Gen: L. N. Rayburn, Guntersville, Ala.

Sir; As my advices from Saltville lead me to the confident expectation of immediate shipments of Salt; and as no instructions have been given you, in relation to the supply of indigent families of Volunteers, absent in the service; and no provision has been made to supply those in North-Alabama, from the works of Mess" Figh & Co, on account of the difficulty & expense of transportation, which would make the price at the point of consumption greater than that of the Virginia Salt, you are instructed to supply them - in preference to others, under the following rules; Upon receipt of the first shipment, you will apportion it, Equally, for the several Counties in your District, & notify the respective Judges of Probate, of the amount on hand for them, for this purpose, and of the cost at your Depository; & you will sell the same to the County authorities, only, & deliver - to their properly - accredited agent, for gratuitous distribution among those families, upon the payment of the money to you.

You will notify the Judges of Probate to file with you a statement of the amount which will be required for gratuitous distribution among the indigent families of Volunteers, & for which they intend to pay, & upon receipt of each shipment from Virginia, you will retain for that purpose, & notify the Judges, & will not offer, for general sale, until the quota required by the several Counties, has been supplied to, or reserved for them.

The regulations & directions - heretofore given in circular to Probate Judges - herewith enclosed - are intended to apply to the Salt, held by you for that purpose.

For other agents, see Circular, page 228.

Very respectfully, Yours,
(signed) In° Gill Shorter, Gov° of Ala.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 31st 1862.

Admiral Franklin Buchanan, Naval commandants office, Mobile, ala.

Sir; I have the honor to enclose you a letter, this day, received from Doct. John B. Reed of Tuscaloosa, with a drawing of a Torpedo-Ram, which he has invented. A similar drawing was sent me, by him, last Winter or Spring, which I forwarded to Commodore Randolph, then Commanding at Mobile. Dr Reed is the inventor of the Reed-Shell, used, so efficiently in the Ordnance Department of the army, is a gentleman of fine intelligence, & great energy of character. If, upon examination of his drawings, you should approve his plans, & will signify a wish to confer with him, I will invite him to call on you, at the earliest convenient day. I, also, herewith, hand you a communication, on file in my office, under date of 26th April last, signed by Mr George G. Pattison, Pensacola, Fla. giving a description of a Fire-Ship, which is submitted for your examination.

With high regards, I am,
Respectfully, Yr obt Sert.

(Signed) In° Gill Shorter, Gov° of Ala.

244
244

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Oct. 31st, 1862

Dr. John B. Reed, Surgeon A.C.C. Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Sir; Yours of 28th, accepting Commission as Surgeon of the Corps of Cadets enclosing plan &c. of Torpedo-Boat, has been received, & the plan & descriptive letter forwarded to Admiral Franklin Buchanan, Mobile. Your former plan was sent to Commodore Randolph.

Should Admiral Buchanan approve, I will notify you; and if you are ordered to make experiments, the State will compensate you for your services, unless the Confederate Government should require your services for the same purpose, with the intent of compensation. I hope the Admiral may find the plan sufficient to accomplish all you intend & anticipate.

Very Respectfully, Yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Oct. 31st. 1862.

Hon. G. W. Randolph, Secretary of War, Richmond, Va

Sir; I beg to enclose you a copy of a letter, this day received from Capt J. H. Speed, Assistant Quarter-Master of the State of Alabama, at Saltville, Va. under date of 28th inst. detailing the difficulties in the way of transportation of Salt from the State of Virginia. This condition of affairs, allow me to say, calls for the interposition of some power to remedy the difficulties mentioned. Alabama has, already advanced near forty thousand Dollars on Salt-Contracts, at Saltville, which Contracts, in the aggregate, will call for further advances of upwards of two hundred Thousand Dollars. North-Alabama, which has been ravaged by the Enemy, is entirely dependent upon these works and Contracts, for a supply of Salt, & is, this day, almost entirely, destitute. Now the letter of Capt. Speed stated, that there are about 7.200 Bushels of Salt made daily and only 2,400 bushels taken away: What is shipped, is taken by the State of Virginia, and other States are denied all facilities. While the armies of Alabama are, this day, standing guard upon the soil of Virginia, to defend that glorious old State, it looks ungracious, that the families of our gallant Troops shall be denied the privilege of bringing out of Virginia, the Salt which is absolutely essential to maintain them.

I do not know to whom to apply for redress, of the complaint herein submitted, other than to your department of the Government. The Salt famine in our land is most lamentable, & I am Confident that you will exert every Constitutional power to mitigate its effects

Will you advise me in the premises, at your earliest convenience, and oblige, Respectfully, Yr obt Servt

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Oct 31st 1862.

Blanton Duncan, Esq. Columbia, S.C.

Sir; as the Legislature has, in contemplation the issue of a circulation of Bills, from "Ones" to "Twenties," to the extent of one Million of Dollars and, perhaps, "change-bills," with a view of relieving our currency from the evils of private local change-bills, will you please send me a specimen of your paper upon which to strike the bills, and an estimate of the expense of engraving & working-off the Bills?

Will you please let me know, whether, upon the small bills, the signatures could be engraved, without too much risk of counterfeiting?

Very Respectfully, Yr's
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter Gov^r of Ala.

245

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 1st 1862.

His Excellency, Joseph E. Brown, Governor of Geo. Milledgeville

Sir; Capt. Speed, Quarter-master & Agent for the State of Alabama, at Saltville, Va. writes me upon the subject of transportation of Salt, a statement, which, ~~under~~ in the present pressing emergency, with our people, fills me with anxiety. From his letter I learn that but 2400 bushels are transported on the branch-road, daily-while 7200 bushels are manufactured; and the accumulation is daily & constantly increasing. In this arrangement, Mess^rs Stuart, Buchanan, & Co have the monopoly of transportation, & both Georgia & Alabama are excluded. Supposing that in such an emergency, you will use Cars of your own State-Road, to ensure-fully, the transportation of the Salt for the State of Georgia, and having no acquaintance with your State-Superintendent, I am induced to apply to you, to know whether I can make with the State-Road of Georgia, an arrangement for transportation; or obtain the use of Cars, for the State of Alabama, for the transportation of our Salt, now accumulating, to the great inconvenience of Contractors, & detriment of our people.

The Montgomery & West-Point Road - as you are, probably, aware, is of narrow-guage, & its Cars cannot be used on the Georgia & Tennessee Roads, while I understand, that the Memphis & Charleston has not Enough Cars for its own immediate use. The question of Salt-supply is a vital one to our people, & especially, to our citizens in North-Alabama - so recently despoiled by the Enemy, who must receive their supply from the Virginia Works. All the Salt made there, under Contract with the State of Alabama, is intended, exclusively, for the consumption of our citizens, in the Valley of the Tennessee. The very limited supply - made in South Alabama, could reach them, only by a circuitous route, with frequent trans-shipments. Under these circumstances, I apply to you, and trust my anxiety, under this trying dis-appointment, will be my sufficient excuse for troubling you in the Matter.

indexed to here,

Very Respy. Your obt Sert.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 3d 1862.

Mr John McNab. Eufaula, Ala.

Dear Sir; I telegraphed you, last night, in these words, "Your letter, with enclosures, received. No further Legislation needed. I will advance all the Money required. Go ahead. I write to-morrow." The enclosed bill passed, & was approved by me on the 31st. $1.000.000 is appropriated. The works you are proposing are embraced by it; & if you need $20.000, you shall have it, and to any amount required, to give protection & security to our people. And it seems to me that it is right & proper for the State to furnish these means, and not leave the works dependent upon private contributions. There are, always, many, who, though most deeply interested, dodge, or withhold their just proportion. The responsibility is on the Confederate- & State-governments. The General Assembly, have promptly & nobly responded to my recommendations for the State-defense; and I will expend the last dollar in the treasury, if needful, to save our people from the horrors of Yankee invasion. Do not, therefore, delay a moment to secure Money. You shall have it whenever, & in whatever quantity needed. The Eastern Banks may advance the funds to John McNab, Wm H. Thornton, & Wm H. Chambers, State-Commissioners, & I will return the amount at the State-treasury, without interest, whenever called-upon; or will advance, to the Commissioners, directly, on their order here. I enclose a blank Commission, which, I authorize the three Commissioners named, to fill-up with the name of one or more impressment-agents, who will be fully empowered & directed to impress Labor, teams, tools, & whatever may be needed, under the provisions of the Law. All expenditures for the State, I propose to have made through the three Commissioners named. For the necessary Military orders, which may be required, application

must be made to Col. Eli S. Shorter, Aid de Camp to the Executive, at Eufaula. and so soon as he can be advised of the plans— and what may be required of Alabama, he will be instructed to act, with all necessary energy.

Respectfully Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,
Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 3^d 1862.

Col. Joseph E. Murrell, Mobile.

Sir; Your letter, by Mr M^c Clintock, is to-day received. I think he should have assistance to aid him in the construction of another Engine; and he believes that, with one Thousand Dollars, he can make one. If Gen^l Forney approves it, I will advance this amount; and you are, hereby, authorised to do so, for the State. Mr Walsh will furnish you with the funds, if you request it, and I will return the amount, without interest.

Yours, very truly,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala:

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 3^d 1862.

Dr Wm A Baldwin, Montgomery.

Sir; In view of the reports which have reached me, as to the prevalence of Small Pox in certain portions of the Confederate Army, & in Some of the States, & as a preventive to its introduction & Spread into Alabama, I deem it prudent to procure for distribution throughout the State, a supply of vaccine virus, to the end that our people may be vaccinated. To accomplish this purpose, I have to request that you will accept an appointment, from me, as Executive of the State to procure the virus for distribution, under such directions, as may, hereafter be deemed most proper.

Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 3^d 1862.

Henry R. Holcombe, Esq^r Mobile, Ala.

Sir; The suggestions contained in your letter of 31^st Ult. are approved. Mr John Whiting, of this City, under the last Legislative action on the subject of closing up the affairs of the Old State-Bank & Branches, was appointed State-Commissioner, with plenary powers. On this account, I would have him consulted in reference to the removal of the books & records you mention; but he has been & still is, quite unwell, and confined to his house, unable to attend to business. Under the circumstances— therefore— I deem it proper to advise the transfer of the books & records, in your possession, to Montgomery, & would suggest that they be shipped to Mr John Whiting. His agent, here, can receive them.

Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 3rd. 1862.

Dr. Wm. Henry Cumming, Surgeon P. A. C. S. Superin^t Vacc^n, Dep^t S.C. & Geo.

Sir; I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your valued favor of 1st Inst. for which, please accept my thanks.

If you are able to inform me, I shall be glad to know who has been appointed Superintendent of Vaccination, for the department, including the State of Alabama.

Respectfully,
Your obt Serv^t
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,
Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery Ala: Novr 4th 1862.

His Excellency, John Milton, Govr of the State of Florida.

Sir; I have had the pleasure of a visit from the Hon. David Walker, bearer of your communication of 22d ulto; and approving, most heartily, your recommendation for the establishment of a new Military department, I availed myself of his kind services, in drafting an appropriate letter upon the subject, to President Davis. I have signed and enclosed it to the Governor of Georgia, with request that he sign & forward it to you, for your examination & approval. I concluded, upon reflection, that the application, for a new Military Department, should be unattended by any recommendation, as to the Officer who should command it; as our urgent might, in some degree, be prejudiced, by the suggestion of an Officer whom the President might not approve. If the Command be established, it will be easy, I trust, to secure an efficient Brigadier General. Upon the subject of a Convention of Governors, I have the honor to inform you, that I hold myself ready, at all times, to meet any invitation, which shall propose an assemblage of the State Executives of the Confederacy.

Respectfully, Your obedient Servant
(Signed) In. Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala; Novr 4th 1862

Hon, S. R. Mallory, Sec. of the Navy, Richmond, Va.

Sir, I have the honor to enclose a requisition by Capt. Pearson, for certain Naval Stores required for the defensive works, on the Alabama & Tombigbee rivers, approved by me. If agreeable to you, I hope you will Telegraph the Naval Store keeper, here, to supply them to us.

Respectfully, Your obedient Servant
(Signed) In. Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Novr 4th 1862.

Capt. John Hardy, Commanding Minute Men, Eufaula, Ala.

Sir; I am in receipt of your letter, of this day suggesting the necessity of providing a Military Guard for the Slaves contributed by the citizens of South Eastern Alabama, to work on defenses & obstructions of the Chattahoochee river.

Concurring, as I do, with you, on the necessity of making the provision suggested by you, you will detail, from your Command, such number of men, as, in your opinion, may suffice for this purpose, and furnish them with such stores as may be necessary, and transportation — if the same is not provided by the Confederate authorities — and continue the detail in the service, while the hands are so employed.

I would call your attention to the act, approved Novr 22d 1861, "to raise an additional force for the defense of the State, and to resist invasion" and to the act approved December 7th 1861. "to raise the additional force, for the defense of the State". By the provisions of the first recited act, which are applicable to the second act, the Captain is made the Paymaster of the Company, & required to give bond. A blank bond is, herewith enclosed for execution, upon which you will be furnished with the necessary funds.

Respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) In. Gill Shorter

Governor of Alabama.

218

248

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala; Nov^r 4th 1862

J. J. Donegan, Esq^r President of the Northern Bank, Huntsville, Ala.

Sir; Your Letter of 8th Ult^o would have been answered earlier, but for the necessity of communicating with the Directors of the Central Bank of Alabama, who had advanced the money apportioned, under the Loan, to the institution under your charge. At the time the loan was called for, the amount apportioned to your Bank, was $ 176,000, but North-Alabama being in possession of the Enemy, it was impossible to communicate with you, or to know what you desired to do.

But supposing you would desire the investment, the Central Bank generously offered to advance the Money, take the Bonds, & turn them over to you without charge of interest, provided the Money were refunded within Sixty days. It now proposes to furnish the Bonds to you, upon the payment of the interest, for the time already elapsed, and you have only to send on your Agent, with the funds, to close the matter.

Very Respectfully, Yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala; Nov^r 4th 1862.

To His Excellency, Jefferson Davis,
President of the Confederate States.

Sir; We the Governors of Alabama, Georgia, & Florida, most respectfully unite in the request that you will order the formation of a new Military Department, to be composed of the Counties of Henry, Dale, Barbour, Covington, Coffee & Pike, in Alabama: of the Counties of Decatur, Thomas, Miller, Early, Baker, Clay, Calhoun, Randolph, Quitman, Stewart, Muscogee, Chattahoochee, Mitchell, & Dougherty, in Georgia: and of the Counties of Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison, Liberty, Washington, Jackson, Calhoun, & Franklin, in Florida. Thoroughly acquainted, as we are, with the Geography & resources of our respective States, and with the present Military organizations in them, we feel, strongly, the necessity of this new department. It is almost impossible for Gen^l Forney, constantly engaged, as he is, & must be, in watching the movements of the Enemy before Mobile, to give the proper attention to the Counties in his Department lying on the Appalachicola river, two hundred miles to the East of him, & unconnected by Rail-Road or Telegraph; and it is equally impossible for General Finegan, while contending with the Enemy, in East & South-Florida, to give the needed protection to the Counties of Middle Florida, about the same distance to the West of him. We do not wish to cast a shadow of censure on either of those Generals, but only to state that neither can do full justice to one portion of his Department, as, at present, constituted, without neglecting another. We would, briefly, call your Excellency's attention to the fact that the new department, which we propose, is in imminent danger of being over-run by the Enemy, very soon, he being induced thereto, by its present defenseless condition, & its vast wealth, in Cotton, Slaves, cattle, hogs, Corn &c, & embracing, as it does, the important City of Columbus in Georgia, & the Capitol of Florida, besides an extensive Seaboard, along which thousands of the Citizens of our respective States are now engaged in making Salt for the use of themselves, & neighbours, hundreds of Miles in the Interior.

We know the embarrassments of the Government, in regard to troops & arms; and the previous action of our States shows, that we would be last to add to them. To supply troops to the Department now proposed, we respectfully suggest that we be authorized by your

249

Excellency) to call for Six Months' Volunteers—or for such other term as you may suggest, (the shorter the Term—the more speedily we can raise them) (and the danger is very pressing) from amongst those not subject to Conscription, and those subject to Conscription, between the ages of 35 & 45 years. Each Regiment to Elect its own officers, under its State-Laws; Then to be tendered to the Confederate Government, & be commanded by a Brigadier, to be appointed by yourself.

Hoping that this—to us, very important—subject will meet your Excellency's early & favorable consideration, We have the honor to be, most respectfully

Your Excellency's

Obedient Servants,

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

P.S. signed by Gov Shorter, & copy sent to Governors of Florida & Georgia for Their Signatures

Executive Department

Montgomery, Ala. Nov 4th 1862.

His Excellency, Joseph E. Brown, Gov of Geo. Milledgeville, Geo.

Sir; At the suggestion of Gov Milton of Florida, I have prepared the enclosed letter, & affixed my official Signature. If you approve the suggestions therein made, you will please sign officially, & transmit to Gov Milton, for his signature, & to forward to the President. That some measure is necessary for the protection of the Section alluded to, has been, for some time, apparent to me, & I hope your views will co-incide with those of Gov Milton, & of

Your Obt Servt.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department

Montgomery, Ala. Nov 5th 1862.

N. Nyle, Esq: Bellefonte, Ala.

Sir; Your letter of 25th inst. has been recd, & in reply, I would State, that I am, painfully, aware of the necessity of your people, for Salt, and have used my utmost efforts, & been unsparing of the funds of the State, in my exertions to procure a supply, which, if possible, I would have made adequate to the entire demand—both as to quantity, & time of delivery. But you must be aware of the many difficulties to be surmounted in such an undertaking, & the many vexatious delays to which it is subject. It is not from your County alone, that the cry is coming of the want of Salt. From every County in North Alabama, the appeal comes, & middle & South Alabama are but little behind, & that because, from the absence of the Enemy, a few sacks have been distributed among them, in small quantities, & at high price, comparatively, & from the further fact that Speculators, from time to time, threw portions of their reserved Stocks into the Market. In consideration of these advantages to the citizens of Middle & Southern Alabama, and of their facilities of access to the Salt-Springs and the Sea; as well as the difficulties of transportation from this Section to North-Alabama; I determined to reserve the entire product of the Virginia Works, for the Counties on the Tennessee river, which would fairly equilize the advantages.

But, in so doing, there should be an equality of distribution among those Counties, & it would not be just and fair, to allow to one County, the entire quota of that County, under the Contract, from the first production, & leave the others—equally necessitous, but, perhaps, more remote, to await further manufacture. This would not be that equal care of her citizens, which is due from a State, & would be, very properly & justly, censured by those who would be the sufferers.

So far as the quota, belonging to the County, of the amount manufactured, on hand in Saltville, is concerned, & transportation be facilitated thereby—or if it is the wish of the County authorities—or the people, so to receive it—upon receiving an order from Col. W. S. Scott, of Scottsboro, who has been appointed State-Agent, for Jackson County to receive & distribute, to Capt. Joseph M. Speed, Quarter-Master and Agent Saltville, he will deliver to the party appointed for that purpose

There is now, a quantity on hand in the sheds of Messrs McClung & Jaques, & from my advices, I suppose they are adding to it at the rate of three hundred bushels per day; all of which has been - & may now be delayed for the want of transportation, over the Branch Road from Saltville. I have applied to various controlling quarters, to have this difficuelty removed, & hope yet to have it accomplished. If, however, you know, or can contrive any plan to overcome this, as I am, somewhat induced to suppose - from the propositions in your letter, you will be amply repaid for it, & will merit, & receive the heartfelt thanks of your fellow-citizens, as well as of

Yours, most Respectfully,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 5th 1862.

Col. R. T. Scott, Scottsboro' Ala.

Sir; Your letter of 28th Oct, & your bond, as Agent for Sale & distribution of Salt, at Scottsboro', have been received. The Conscription Law, which you desire extended into Jackson Co., is entirely & entirely under the Control of the Confederate authorities, and they have been reminded of the necessity of its extension, both - with the intent of recruiting our shattered Regiments & to remove, from our midst, the dangerous characters to which you refer. I trust it will not be long before your wishes will be realized.

I enclose you a copy of a letter rec'd from Mr R. Wyle, desiring, in behalf of the Commissioners of your County, that I give them an order on the Virginia Works, for six thousand Bushels of Salt, which they propose to pay for there; & receive & transport by the River. The amount they estimate as the Share, to which Jackson County will be entitled, under the Contract made by the State with McClung & Jaques, & desire to receive it in bulk.

This proposition would be unfair to the other Counties in North Alabama, which - equally, with Jackson, are dependent upon the Virginia Works, for their Salt; but as the Salt is accumulating there, for want of Rail Road transportation from Saltville to the Virginia & Tennessee road; and as I supposed that they might have other transportation, & could, by their own means, accomplish that which the States of Georgia & Alabama had, so far, vainly attempted, I have instructed Capt. Speed, upon your order to him, to deliver to the County-agents its quota of Salt then on hand. You can so frame the order as to show whether the money has been paid to you, or is to be paid to him for the Salt so delivered. I am desirous that the Salt should go forward as rapidly as possible; and if the authorities of the Counties can do this, with more certainty than it can be done by the State-Agents for the Works I wish them to have every facility. Capt. Speed is using every exertion to this end, and I am in negotiation with Authorities, by which, I hope it may be fully accomplished. I feel for our people the want of this necessary, & have labored earnestly, and amid vexations & obstacles well calculated to discourage any but the most sanguine.

In the absence of Legislative action, or of Judicial proceedings against parties, in view of disloyalty, the authorities of the State must presume in favour of the Loyalty of all its Citizens, and the Executive cannot, in the absence of such action or proceedings, require any oath of allegiance, to entitle them to protection or assistance

Very Respectfully, yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

P.S. I have been much interested in your description of your capture, by the Abolitionists, & your escape - due, no doubt, to your determination & perseverance. I trust the day, for the exercise of such activity, in Alabama, has passed; & that you, in common with the people of your County will now be able to enjoy the Peace, which you have so nobly earned.

257

I need hardly assure you, who know me so well, of my sincere sympathy with your sufferings, in the hands of your Captors, or of my rejoicing in your release.

Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 5th 1862

Capt Joseph H. Speed; Agent of the State of Alabama; Saltville, Va.

Sir; I am in receipt of your letters of 21st & 28th of October, which would have been answered earlier, but for the great press of official business.

I can fully appreciate the difficulties with which you have had to contend, & the energy & perseverance you have brought to bear in endeavouring to overcome them, & hope your exertions, until, in some form, you attain success.

Upon receipt of information that Gov Letcher had issued his proclamation against the exportation of Salt, I addressed a letter to him, requesting his written permit to ship the Salt for the State of Alabama; & a few days ago, received an answer, stating that he had just returned from Saltville, & had given the requisite orders, of which I was, likewise, advised by the tenor of your letters.

On the receipt of your last (28th) advising me of the difficulty of transportation upon the Branch-Road, I wrote to the Secretary of War, requesting him to use such means as were in his power, to expedite shipments, calling his attention to the wants of our people, & the cruel delays to which we were subjected, for want of transportion; and, also, wrote to Gov. Brown to procure Cars from his State Road. I have, as yet, no replies to these letters, but will apprise you receipt.

I have, before me, a proposition from Jackson County, to receive her entire proportion of Salt, in one Bulk, at Saltville, & the County to take charge of the entire shipment. This I felt bound to decline, as depriving other counties, equally destitute, of their quota, in time, but have instructed the Agent for Sale & distribution, if it will facilitate transportation, to draw his order on you, to deliver to the agent of the County, the quota belonging to it, of the amount manufactured, & on hand at any time. You will also respectfully fill like orders from the other Counties, when drawn by the proper Agent & presented. These orders are not intended to embarrass your transportation operations; but to facilitate them by outside means, & perhaps, by this means, to stimulate the Rail-Road men to more energy.

You will make such arrangements with Mr Kyle, for payment of freight, as may be mutually agreeable. It would, perhaps, be better for him to make the payments, as tending to facilitate the accounts & the repayments & settlements.

Respfy Yr obt Sert. (signed) Jno Gill Shorter,

Executive Department;
Montgomery Ala. Nov 6th 1862.

Col. L.C. Garland, Head-Quarters, University of Ala.

Sir; In reply to yours, of 29th ult. I have to say, that I will authorize you to contract, in behalf of the State, with Mess Leach & Avery, for a light battery of four guns, with Carriages & Caissons complete, at the following prices. 4 Guns (Sizes & description to be fixed by yourself) with Carriages complete, to pass Ordnance inspection & trial, at $. 550 Each. $ 2.640.
4 Caissons, do. at $ 450 1.800.
Total cost (with odd wheel to each caisson. $. 4.440

The guns now in the encampment, can be converted into a siege piece, as the Commandant suggests. This battery, when completed, with all needful fixings, can remain in the University Encampment, for the use of & preservation by the ~~University~~ Corps, until it may be needed for State Defense, elsewhere.

Trusting to your discretion & good judgement, in securing a battery, which will stand hard service in the field, if required for that purpose, I am

Respectfully Yr Obt Ser't
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

252

252

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 7th 1862.

Genl Braxton Bragg, Comm'g Dept (No 2.

Sir; I respectfully refer to your consideration, the enclosed letter, from Dr J. W. Sykes, an intelligent gentleman residing in North Alabama, suggesting, as a means of military defense, for a portion of North-Alabama; to prevent the Memphis & Charleston Rail-Road, as a means of effecting a junction, that a portion of that road should be destroyed.

Not knowing, myself, the effect of such destruction, either upon the Enemy, or upon the future movements of our own troops, I submit the matter to your consideration.

Very Resp'y, Your obt Sert
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 7th 1862.

Walter P. McFarlane, Esq. Guntersville, Ala.

Sir; I am in rec't of your letter of 28th ult. enquiring into the appointment of State-Agents for the distribution of Salt to the Counties embraced in your Contract for Supply from Virginia. I can assure you that nothing was further from my intention, than to interfere in any manner, with your operations, of which I was very imperfectly informed, until the receipt of the copy of the Contract contained in yours. In the uncertainty of the nature, character & extent of your operations, I could not neglect the interests of the people of those counties, especially in the absence of any advices from the County authorities. Neither those authorities nor the people, have expressed ~~any desire to avail themselves~~ any desire to avail themselves of the provisions of your Contract, except in the single letter received from Judge May, of same date with yours. As there seems to be some difficulty likely to ensue, in carrying-out the provisions made by the state, & those anticipated from your Contract, I now propose that your Stockholders abandon their preference under the Contract, & receive back their money from the state, upon proper Showing of the amount expended by them; that the works continue under the original terms, as to your compensation, & under your superintendence; and the product of the furnaces be turned over to Capt. Speed, to enter into the general stock of the state. While I was desirous, & while it was the true policy of the state, that as many as possible should enter into the manufacture of Salt, the state was no party to your Contract, diminishing the quantity to be received from the State Contractors, by the amount to be manufactured by you, and I was unapprized of any such provision, until the receipt of your letter, and, in the absence of the expression of a wish, on part of the County-authorities, or the people, I should undoubtedly, object to any abatement of the amount to be received by the State, on ac't of its previous Contracts.

If such an expression could be had, I could withdraw the Agencies established, & leave the entire matter to the control of the several Counties; but while the people are looking to the state for their supply, the plan I propose will obviate any collision, & make an equal and fair provision, without any loss or injury to you or your associates.

The appointment of Agents, now made, is for the distribution of the State Salt, & had no reference to your operations, & without any knowledge that it could conflict with the Contract made by you with Mess's Stewart, & Buchanan, &c. I had supposed that your Contract ad furnish, to its extent, an additional amount to the State, & was much pleased to learn that it had been effected. I would be pleased to hear from you, upon the proposition, herein made, at an early day.

Resp'y Your obt Sert
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

353

253

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Nov^r 8th 1862.

Mess^rs John Fraser & Co. Charleston, S.C.

Gentlemen; You will oblige me, by informing me whether you can furnish the State of Alabama, with from five thousand- to ten thousand pair of Cotton & Wool Cards, in the proportion of two pair of Wool- to eight pair of Cotton, within, from thirty to sixty days, & at what price they can be afforded.

Very Resp'y Yr's,
(Signed) In^o Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 8th, 1862,

Col. L. C. Garland, University of Alabama

Sir; In reply to your communication of the 30th ult., I have to say that a preference should be given to Citizens of Alabama, over residents in other States, when they apply for admission into the University. As our accommodations are limited we must provide for our own Sons. (Your view are happily expressed, with the qualification above given.

Resp'y, Yr Obt Serv't.
(Signed) In^o Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

indent to hire

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 11th, 1862

Mrs. A. F. Hopkins, Richmond, Va.

Madam; It is with great satisfaction, that I find myself the medium of transmission to you of the articles mentioned in the enclosed letter of Mrs. A. B. Ware, of Marengo County. The articles referred to, have been Handed to the Quarter-Master, with instructions to transmit, by safe opportunity, & if none offers soon, to forward by Express, to you.

I need, scarcely, add how sincerely I join in the commendations, & kind wishes which Mrs Ware expresses towards yourself.

Most Sincerely, Your Obt Serv't,
(Signed) In^o Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 5th 1862

To ——————————

Commanding ——————————— Alabama Volunteers.

Sir; In transmitting the accompanying resolutions of the Legislature of Alabama, with the request that they be communicated to the officers & soldiers under your command, it is with no ordinary feeling of State pride, that I allude to the gallant achievements of the sons of Alabama. Whether in the wasting inaction of Camp, upon the suffering March, in the beleaguered fortress, in the intrepid assault, or upon the bloody battle-field, their fortitude, courage and devotion have emblazoned their country's flag with lustre, & wrought, for themselves & their State, an imperishable fame. Their Enemies, themselves, being judges, they have fought & endured with a heroism beyond compare, either in ancient or modern times. In committing to her Soldiers, her flag, with the honor of their dear ones, the sanctity of their homes, & the defense of their rights, She, also, entrusted them with her fame & her history. Here are her expectations they have not disappointed. Whether, in the dark & desponding hour of trial, or in the exultation of victory, the name of Alabama has proved a talisman, & the blood of her sons, on every field, witnesses that her fame & her history are safe in their hands. To this, her Legislature, by solemn resolution, attests. Alabama drops the tear on her fallen dead, adopts their families as her own, & preserves the memory of their names, & heroic deeds on the records of her history. But before us lies, still, a pathway of suffering & blood, now as ever- the price of liberty. They are called to yet other scenes of endurance- toil & strife, for the attainment of our desires- a complete & acknowledged ~~independence~~ independence. Let the future be but as the past! Alabama asks no more! May that God, who has, hitherto, led us as a people, still receive the devotion of their hearts, & soon crown their heroic efforts, & those of their brave Comrades from our sister States, with that peace which shall restore them to their homes, to be greeted by those whom they have so bravely protected, as only the Soldiers of the Army of Liberty can be welcomed.

Respectfully, Your fellow- Citizen;
(Signed) In^o Gill Shorter Gov^r of Ala.

54

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 12th 1862.

General Brayton Bragg, Commanding Department No 2.

Sir; I had the honour, on the 7th Inst, of addressing a letter to you, covering a communication, received from Dr J W. Sykes, requesting its consideration. Uncertain of your precise locality, I directed it to Murfreesboro; and I, now, avail myself of the kindness of Gen[e] Sterling Wood, to transmit a copy. Please reply at your earliest convenience.

Very respectfully, Your obt Ser[t].
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov[r] of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 12th 1862.

Gen[l] Brayton Bragg, Head-Quarters,

My dear Sir, I am obliged to appeal to you for information in relation to Wm H. Garrett of this State, of Crocheron's Light Dragoons, acting, at one time, as I learn, as your body Guards. Mr G. was taken prisoner about the 1st Sept. last, as the Army moved into Kentucky, and the only information which has been received, since that time, is from a letter of a paroled Soldier, stating that he left him a prisoner in Nashville, and that he was made the Bearer of a letter from him to him to his father. This letter was, however, taken from the Soldier by the pickets of the Enemy, since then he has heard nothing of him. His father is confident, that his son would have found some means of communicating with him, from Nashville, where he has friends & an Uncle; but the latter is a prisoner under Johnson. He fears that the letter taken from his son, may have contained something which has been made a pretext for his detention, & even worse than that.

Col. Garrett, the father, at whose request I write, is a gentleman of Standing & position; Was, for many years, Secretary of State & Speaker of our House of Representatives. His wife is almost distracted, as to the fate of her boy, & the uncertainty which, in her mind, hangs over his fate. Col. Garrett visited Chattanooga, some weeks since, in the hope of learning something of him, but was not allowed to go further, and, on his return, was seriously injured, by the upsetting of the Stage, and disabled from prosecuting his enquiries in person.

It is on his behalf & his mother's, that I appeal to you; & I am certain, that, if any thing can be done to alleviate her fears, by obtaining information as to his fate— the fate of her only son you will most cheerfully do it.

I know the value of your time, & the demands, perhaps, of greater moment, which are upon you, & I should hesitate, to call upon you, under any other circumstances.

Very resp[y], Your Obt Ser[t].
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov[r] of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov[r] 13th 1862.

Gen[l] Braxton Bragg, Commanding Dep't No 2. Head-quarters in the field.

Sir; Permit me to introduce to you, Mr J. W. Peck, the Quarter-Master of a Company of State Rangers, in North-Alabama, commanded by Capt. Nelson Hennell. Gov[r] Shorter instructs me to say that he has forwarded to you, two communications; one directed to you at Murfreesboro', Tennessee, & the other to Chattanooga— the former, by mail, & the latter by Brig[r] Gen[l] L. A. Wood— on the subject of destroying the Rail-Road from Decatur to Bear-Creek. I am instructed, to call your attention, again, to the importance of destroying this Road, at once. That portion of the road, proposed to be destroyed, runs through a very rich portion of the Tennessee Valley, in which there is a large surplus of Corn, Pork & Beef, that must, probably, fall into the

hands of the Enemy, unless the Road is destroyed. If the Enemy cannot get Rail-road facilities, for carrying off these provisions, they can be saved for our Army, which I need not say to you, is a matter of the utmost importance. It will, at the same time, save subsistence for the Citizens of that Valley, & probably, from another invasion of the Enemy.

The Governor instructs me, further, to say, that if you concur with him, in the propriety of destroying this Road, or consent that it may be destroyed, he wishes you to issue orders, for him, to Capt Fennell, directing him to proceed, immediately, to destroy the Road - & to forward the order, by the bearer of this communication, to him.

Capt Fennell is a prudent & faithful officer, & will perform this service, promptly & effectually. Permit me to suggest, that you can procure Corn in this Valley, at three dollars per barrel, & ship it to Chattanooga by Steamers. Such a large number of Slaves, Horses, & Mules, have been taken from this region, by the Enemy, that provisions are much more abundant, than they would, otherwise, have been & much cheaper. It may well to observe, that it is the general wish of the people of the Country, through which the Road runs, that it should be, immediately, destroyed.

With great respect, Yr obt Ser't.
(Signed) A. B. Moore, Aid de Camp.

Appended to the above: Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Nov 13th 1862.

Dear General,

I beg to call your attention to the fact, that no enrolling officers for Conscripts, have been sent into the Counties of Alabama, North of the Tennessee River, & to request you to detail such, immediately.

Truly, Yours,
(Signed) McGill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 13th 1862.

To Jefferson Davis, Pres't C. S. A. Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir, There is one Company of Mounted Partisan Rangers in North Alabama, organized for State defense, whose term of service will soon expire. This company is under the Command of Capt. Nelson Fennell, & contains many men, liable to the Conscript Act. Capt. Fennell's Company has rendered much efficient, & valuable service in that portion of the State. Two other Companies are much needed there, to aid in enforcing the Conscript act, and in keeping, in subjection, & removing Slaves, who have become, to some extent, demoralized, from coming in contact with the Enemy. From reliable information, I am satisfied that in some of the Counties, in North Alabama, the Conscription cannot be fully executed, without the aid of Military Force. There are no Confederate Forces in these Counties, or near to them; I, therefore, suggest, for your favorable consideration, that the State be permitted to retain Capt. Fennell's Company, as organized, and to organize two other Companies, with not more than forty privates, each, & that all the men - officers & privates, who may be in - or join - said Companies, be relieved from Conscription for four months, unless sooner discharged from the State-Service. In consideration of the facts stated, I respectfully ask your consent to this proposition. If granted, I will immediately proceed to organize the Companies, & use every effort to have the Conscript act faithfully executed - and to keep in subjection the Slaves, in the region referred to.

An answer to this communication is earnestly requested, by Telegraph, at the earliest moment practicable.

With great Respect
Your Obt Ser't

(Signed) McGill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

25½

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 14th 1862.

Mr L. McC. Pettibone, Selma:

Sir; I am informed that there are seventy or eighty Tons of Pig-iron lying upon your landing, at Selma, and that no claimant has appeared for it. This amount of iron is greatly needed, by the State of Alabama, for casting Salt-Pans, for our State Salt-works, & if I had the Iron here, I could have the casting done. This is, therefore to request & authorize you, to take possession of the iron, lying upon your landing, in the name of & for the use of the State; & to ship it to this place, as fast & as soon as possible, to Col. W. D. Pickett, A. D. M. of the State. As Executive of the State, I will protect you in the discharge of this Agency, & pay to you, any lawful charges, which the shipment may have occasioned, & will, likewise adjust the claim of the Owner, when presented upon principles of Equity & right.

Hoping to have the benefit of your assistance, in this matter, I am, Resp'y Yr obt Serv't.

(Signed,) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Nov^r 14th 1862.

Maj. Gen^l Jno H. Forney, Head-quarters Mobile, Ala.

Sir; On the 6th of October, I issued a Special Military Order, in favor Mr M. A. Stickney, of Mobile, authorising the distillation of one hundred barrels of Whiskey, for Medicinal purposes, a copy of which Order is herewith enclosed. Mr Stickney requests that you be informed of the Contract & Licence given, so that he may be permitted to deliver the Whiskey, if not deemed incompatible with the public Service. It seems to me, that, as this is the only licence issued in your vicinity, that it will be proper & just, to Mr Stickney, to allow him to deliver, under his contract, until it is completed. He will, then, close his distillery, or remove it into the interior; if the Legislature, - now in session - allow further distillations for medical supplies.

Resp'y, Yr Obt. Serv't.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 14th 1862

Gen^l Jno H. Forney, Head-Quarters, Mobile.

Sir; Permit me to call your attention to the necessity of erecting a cheap building at Jendas, the Terminus of the Great Northern Rail Road," to secure the Corn and other army-Stores, that may be shipped to or from Mobile. There is, now, at that place, no shelter to protect them from bad weather, or thieves. A cheap building could be erected, in a few days, that may save thousands of dollars to the Government. Transportation on the Rail Road is so much cheaper & more rapid than on the River, that it will take that direction, hence the necessity of building a shelter for Government Stores, at the point suggested. The Rail-Road Company is prohibited, by contract, with the Corporation of Mobile, from erecting a warehouse at that place. It is hoped this matter will receive your favorable consideration.

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 14th 1862.

Col. W. D. Dunn, Pres't Great Northern Rail-Road, Mobile.

Sir; I enclose a letter to Gen^l Jno H. Forney, also, a letter addressed to me, by Col Charles J. Pollard, Pres't of the Ala. & Florida R. Road,

which you will please read, & hand-over to Gen.l Forney; they explain themselves. If your Road needs any of the Rolling-Stock, referred-to, & you concur in the views expressed-by Col Pollard & my self, you will please address a letter to Gen.l Forney, to that effect.

Resp.fy, Yr. obt Serv.t

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov.r 14th 1862.

Gen.l Jno A. Forney, Head-Quarters, Mobile,

Sir; I enclose to you, through Col. Dunn, Pres.t of the "Great Northern Rail-Road" a letter, addressed to me, by Col. Charles J. Pollard, Pres.t of the "Alabama & Florida Rail-Road," suggesting the necessity of more Locomotives & Cars, to meet the public demand for Transportation; he states that he is unable to purchase them, & that he has endeavoured to purchase or rent the Locomotives & Cars, belonging to the Company, owning the road from the State line to Pensacola, but has been unable to do so, except at rates so extravagant, as to forbid his doing so. The Rolling Stock of this Road is lying idle, & I beg leave, respectfully, to urge upon you, the necessity - under the circumstances, of your seizing it, for the use of the two roads specified, upon the terms suggested by Col. Pollard. This, in my opinion, is a pressing Military necessity. Should you determine to take this Rolling-Stock, please forward copies of such order, as you may deem proper to make, to Col. Wm D. Dunn, & Col. Charles J. Pollard, should Col. Dunn not need any portion of it. It is hoped you will press so much of it as may be needed by the Alabama & Florida Rail-Road.

Resp.fy, your obt. Serv.t

(Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov.r 15th, 1862

Peter Hamilton, Esq.r Mobile,

Dear Sir; The pressure upon me has prevented an earlier reply to your letter of the 11th inst.; as the mayor of the City had appointed a Committee of Safety to co-operate with the Civil & Military authorities, I think you will concur with me in the propriety of inviting the Committee to share with me, the duty & responsibility of disbursing the handsome appropriation made by the Legislature, for the defence. The enclosed letter, which I beg you to deliver to Col. Dunn, is written, after due reflection, & I trust, may meet your approval. It is enclosed - unsealed - that you may read it before delivery.

With high regard, I am, Resp.fy, Yr. obt Serv.t

(Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Nov.r 15th 1862

Col. Wm. D. Dunn, Ch.n Comm.e of Safety, Mobile.

Sir; I have the honor to acknowledge rec.t of your communication of the 11th inst. advising me of the appointment of a new Committee of Safety, by the Mayor of the City, & of a paper containing the names of the Committee. It will afford me pleasure to co-operate with them in every way in my power, to promote the defense & security of the City. The Legislature have appropriated half a million dollars for the Defense of Mobile. Whatever amount of this appropriation can be judiciously employed to accomplish this end, I hope to be able to advance - as it may be required - at an early day; and the opinions and suggestions of the Committee of Safety, as to its proper disbursement, will be duly considered, & are invited, by me. As the gentlemen composing the Committee are all citizens of Mobile, & directly - & personally interested, as well as men of patriotic devotion to the Country; I shall feel disposed to ask them to assume, with the Executive the duty & responsibility of

the disbursement. And I invite their immediate attention to the plans of obstructing the Ship-Channel between forts Morgan & Gaines- suggested by Lieut. Johnston, & communicated to this Department by Peter Hamilton, Esq.r If, upon consultation with the Engineer-Department of the C. S. Government, the plan is approved, and found practicable, no time should be lost, in proceeding with its execution. In such event I will take the liberty to suggest, that it would be agreeable to me, for the committee to invite Mr L. P. Gage of Mobile, & Col. L. M. K. Walker, of Dallas &c. to aid, in the work, Mr Peter Hamilton, & Lieut Johnston.

Resp'y Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery Ala. Nov. 15th 1862.

Wm D. Dunn, Esq. Pres't Mobile & Northern Rail-Road.

Sir; I am in receipt of yours of 12th inst. with enclosures; and fully recognizing the necessity of maintaining your road in good running order, as indispensable in preventing the invasion with which Mobile, & the interior is threatened, I enclose four blank appointments for impressment Agents, which you are authorized to fill with the names of Men, who will discharge the duties with discretion, firmness, & justice. The compensation allowed is the same as that fixed for hands impressed in other public service; and it is expected that the Rail-Road will pay the compensation, on the discharge of the laborers. The limitations of the authority are endorsed on the appointments, but should you require the use of any other property or the property itself embraced by the act, you are authorised to impress it, upon the same terms, as to the payment of compensation, as prescribed for the slaves.

I enclose, also, copies of the Act authorizing the impressment, and also the form of the receipts, sending a package of the same by Mail.

Very Resp'y Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery Ala. Nov 15th 1862.

Commander E. Farrand, C. S. N. Selma:

My dear Sir; Judge Stone, on his return from Mobile, informed me of what I should have thought of, that is- that, in superintending the River obstructions at Choctaw & Oven Bluffs, you should have means of transportation. You will please suit yourself with a horse- or a horse & buggy, as you prefer, and draw on Col. Wm R. Pickett, A. D. C. Ala. at this place, for the payment. Do not be chary about the cost.

A gang of workmen left here, a few days since, for Choctaw, to erect Shelters for the Slaves, Commissarip Houses, &c which they will, very soon knock-up, & we can send the Negroes forward, in any numbers, at once

Very Truly Yours.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

indest. To there

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 17th 1862.

Gen.l John H. Forney, Comm'g &c. Head Quarters Mobile,

Sir; Messrs. G. J. Pelverton, James Larkins, & R. P. Brooks, loyal citizens of Coffee Co. in this State, desire to Export a Cargo of Cotton, & import salt, Coffee, Medicines, Cards, &c. to & from some port not in possession of the Enemy, & respectfully request, that you will afford to these Gentlemen every proper facility, for Clearance of vessel &c. which may be in your power.

Resp'y Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter
Gov of Ala

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Nov^r 17th 1862

Mess^rs G. J. Yelverton, James Larkins & R. P. Brooks, Elba, Ala.

Gentlemen; The Governor is in rec^t of your letter of the 11th inst, requesting information to enable you to run the blockade &c. & instructs me to say to you that there are no restrictions upon importations, except to those of the Enemy- or in his possession. You will have to clear your vessel at the Custom House, in the usual manner; & I enclose a letter of recommendation to Gen^l Forney. The Governor instructs me to say to you, that he will take all the Cards you may import, at Seven dollars per pair, & distribute them to the people of the State, at cost & charges.

Very respectfully, Yours,
(signed) Jn^o B. Taylor.
Private Secretary

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 15th, 1862

Hon^s. G. W. Randolph, Sec'y of War, Richmond.

Sir; In view of the great necessity for the manufacture of Shoes for our Army, & the destitution of many of the Alabama Troops, now in the Field, as reported by officers & others who have visited the State Capital for the purpose of procuring supplies, I trust you will not deem it intrusive, that I ask for the detail of Joseph Allred, Private in the 29th Regiment of Alabama Volunteers, commanded by Col. Tatnall, now Stationed at Pollard, Ala. Mr Allred has a Contract with the State of Alabama, for the manufacture of Fifty Pair per month, until the 10th of January; and, after that at the rate of one Hundred pair per month; which production could be increased by the personal superintendence of Mr Allred. I trust it may not be incompatible with the interests of the public Service, to grant the detail requested.

Very resp^y your obt Ser^t.
(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 17th 1862

Gen^l D. H. Green, 2^d M. Gen^l Mobile,

Sir; I have telegraphed you to-day, in relation to lumber for Choctaw Bluff, and have, before me, a letter from Mr J. M. Ladd, declining to sell bill of lumber, needed by the State, on account of having his lumber all piled & covered, necessitating re-piling &c. but offering to sell his entire Lot.

If his lumber is piled with ordinary care & arrangement, from his own account, the requisite hands, under proper management, can easily separate the portion needed by the State, without injury to the interests of Mr Ladd.

The requisition of the State is for 60.000 feet 1 inch planks, & 5000 feet 3/4 Scantling. Mr Ladd reports, in hand, of planks under 2 inch 150.000 feet; the principal portion 1 to 1¼ inch; of Scantling 190.000 ft. the principal portion ranging from 3×4 to 4×6. If the lumber needed can be obtained, without impressment from Mr Ladd or other sources, it will be best, so to obtain it; but if not, the interests of the State must not suffer, & the construction of defenses be retarded, to accommodate the convenience, or advance the interests of individuals, and the State must resort to impressment, and a detachment of hands can be forwarded under a competent superintendent, to select the lumber from the piles of Mr Ladd, taking care, in executing the order, to commit no waste, & leave the remainder in good condition.

Respectfully,
Your Obt Ser't
(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter,
Gov^r of Ala

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Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 17th, 1862.

Gen. D. C. Greer, C. M. G. Mobile.

Sir; You will forward, by the first safe private hand, the $. 225; paid you by Mr Duke M. Goodman, Secy of Commission to build the Ram, under cover to this office. I drew upon the State Treasury, & advanced the amount of the accounts to the owners of the Slaves, & now wish to refund the money to the Treasury.

The proposition, for sale of their Bullet-Machine, to the state, submitted by Messrs McClintock & Watson, is declined.

The Legislature have appropriated $. 60,000, for the purchase of Cotton & Wool Cards. Where & How can they be obtained? Can I buy any Sterling in Mobile, & at what price for Confederate Treasury Notes, or Alabama State-Bonds?

Respectfully, Your obedient Servant.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala: Nov 17th 1862

To Jefferson Davis, Pres. C. S. A. Richmond Virginia,

Sir; I enclose a letter, addressed to me, by Hon. J. G. Orr, Repr; from Morgan county ala, showing that the Abolitionists— or Federal troops have arrested & taken to some prison— to him unknown— A. A. Burt, W. K. Burt, A. A. Hallett, Solomon Waldenberger, Julius Sitten, John A. Lyle, & Reuben Webster.

These gentlemen were private citizens, engaged in their usual avocations at the time of being arrested, & imprisoned.

I must beg you to have their names registered, in the proper department, and to use all reasonable diligence to have them released from prison, & returned to their homes & families.

With Great Respect, your obt Servt
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 17th 1862.

Capt. Archibald Johnson,

Dear Sir,

Your letter, of Oct. 30th, has just been received. You apply to the Governor, for Counsel, he instructs me to advise you that, if the Guns- which you refer to- were valued, & if you have list showing the names of the persons who furnished the Guns, & the price of each, to forward the list to him, with the certificate of the persons, who valued them, that the valuation was fairly- & impartially made;- which certificate should be sworn to- You will certify, that said guns went into the service of the Confederate States. All on this shewing, the State will pay for them. When any Member of the Company has retained his gun for his own use, it must be stricken from the list, as it could not be paid for.

Very resp'y, Your obt Serv't
(Signed) A. B. Moore, Aid de camp.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala, Nov 18th 1862

Hon. G. W. Randolph; Sec'y of War.

Sir; Mr Patrick Frasier, of Capt Ramsay's Company, in the 12th Regt Alabama Volunteers, formerly commanded by Lieut. R. J. Jones, has been elected Sheriff of De Kalb Co. Ala. The public interest, & the welfare of that County require that he should be permitted to fill the office. That he may do so, I respectfully ask that he may be discharged. Very Resp'y Your obt Serv't
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Nov: 18th 1862.

Jeffersom Davis, President of the Confederate States;

My dear Sir; I am inreci't of your letter of 29th ult: & thank you, most cordially, for your good wishes, & anxiety for the successful defense of Mobile, & trust that yet, favorable circumstances, guided by a good Providence, will enable you, so to provide for a successful resistance, that we may not be called upon to lament its fall. The Spirit of its people, evoked by the gallantry of the General in Charge, finds its Response, in generous appropriations of Money & means, by our Legislature, which, also, sanctions the Devotion of its citizens, by Resolutions, inciting generous Sacrifice, & a determination, that the Enemy shall find, but a mass of Ruins on which to gloat, if he, unfortunately for us, should succeed, in obtaining its possession.

A copy of these Resolutions will be forwarded to you, that you may be apprized of the feeling of our citizens. In the capture of Mobile, we feel that we would be shorn of our pride, & lose much of our strength of resistance, yet the spirit of our people will not quail, if, thereby, a greater good can be accomplished, elsewhere, & results attained, which tend, more surely, to the defeat of the enemy, & the accomplishment of our great Mutual aim—the establishment of our Confederacy.

Upon the approach of the inclement season, now at hand, notwithstanding the expressed desire, of the Enemy, for a Winter Campaign, will not the roads and mud make that impossible—except in the immediate vicinity of the Rail-Roads & Rivers; & will he not be left, with his armies, inactive in the mud of Virginia, Kentucky & Tennessee? and, for the same reason, out of reach of the forces which we will desire to bring to his attack? and will he not concentrate the strength of his land, & naval forces against our Seaboard cities, & move upon our Sandy accessible Coasts? I am aware that present indications at the North, in the Cabinet, & in the Armies of our Enemies, show, that they are sincere in their wish to press on, notwithstanding the Elements & the Soil forbid an advance; but the obstacles to the movement of Troops in the States which I have named, seem to me to be too great for any but the Insane, to undertake such an enterprize. I would not, however, on this account, abate one jot of preparation to meet his advance, & if possible, overwhelm him, on the first false movement. I believe our Troops as capable of endurance as his own, & their Spirits as far more unconquerable, as our course is higher & holier. But with these natural impediments to the advance, of the Enemy upon our Northern border, I trust you will pardon what, but for my anxiety for the defense of an acknowledged important position, might seem presumption, in the Suggestion that, perhaps, the Legion—now Commanded by Col. Hilliard,—might, possibly, be Spared, from Tennessee, for the defense of Mobile. The Cavalry belonging to it, has, for some time, been Separated from the main command, & as such, are not needed, while the Artillery—now reduced to one Company—& the Infantry—would add material Strength to the Defense. I suggest this particular Corps, on account of its peculiar Organization, & from the fact that it is largely composed of South and Middle Alabamians, who would feel, in defending Mobile, that they fighting for the very key to their own homes & families. While there is no Mobile Company in the Corps, the men from the river—& inland Counties would feel the peculiar importance of the position. I place the suggestion before you, however, with all deference to your superior means of information, & Military knowledge.

I regret that the enrollment in Alabama has been so barren of results, & assure you it has not been so, from Causes within my control. To it I have been able to give nothing but moral influence, which, practically, could not accomplish much.

The State Militia law made no sufficient provision for enrollment; and the severe duties as well as the great distance of the Department Commander from the place of operations, has, to some extent, interfered with its complete execution. Several counties—&, among them, those lately in the occupation of the Enemy, are without enrolling officers; and good citizens are calling for their presence that the burden of the war may fall more equally upon all. Our gallant regiments, which have borne the day, are reduced to Skeletons, while there are at home those who, as yet, have felt but few of its inconveniences, & whom, no impulse of patriotism has yet led to take the places, so long vacant. I trust, with the new regulations, these cases may yet be reached. Alabama has volunteered so freely, that I did not expect large results from the enforcement of the Law; but I confess they have fallen far below my expectation.

Resp'y, Yr Obt Ser't. (signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov of Ala.

262
260

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 17th 1862.

Hon. John D. Walker, Decatur Ala.

Sir; I have recd of your letter of 5th inst. making enquiry as to distribution of Salt, in your County, & the operation of the arrangements made by the Salt-Company represented by Mr McFarlane, for the supply of Salt, to certain Counties, in N. Alabama.

All the arrangements of the State for Salt from Virginia, were made, principally, with reference to the wants of North-alabama, and agents were appointed at several points, to distribute the Salt, rateably, among the Counties. I have heard of the formation of the Salt-Company, & that was intended to manufacture for the benefit of the citizens of the Counties embraced in its formation; but was not officially, informed of its means, or capacity, or its intentions with regard to distribution, until the Proclamation of the Governor of Virginia appeared, prohibiting the exportation of Salt, when the Hon J. P. Ralls requested my official interference to secure the privileges accorded to State contracts; and informed me that this Company had caused a relinquishment of the share in distribution from the State to the Counties represented in the Company; to be filed with Mess Stuart, Buchanan & Co, at Saltville. In consequence of this representation, I included the Company in my application to Governor Letcher, & was notified by him, that the permission for shipment had been granted.

From the notice given me by Mr Ralls, I could not determine whether the County-authorities acquiesced in or suggested the filing of the release, nor ascertain the proposed basis of distribution; and in the absence of information on these points, the appointment of State-Agent was made, without reference to the Company; appointments for some points being reserved for consultation with Members of the Legislature, then soon to convene.

Soon after the meeting of the General Assembly, I rec'd a letter from Mr McFarlane, remonstrating against the appointment of a Agent for the Counties represented in his Company, reminding me of the release, & enclosing copies of the agreements constituting his company, & of that with Stuart, Buchanan & Co. for a supply of water. The first disclosed the basis of distribution, which gave a preference to stockholders to the amount of their subscription; & the second that the proportion of water used by the Company was to be deducted from the amount guaranteed to be furnished to the State. The first was too unequal, to meet the approval of the Members from those Counties, (whom I notified to meet me, in consultation with reference to this matter), & to the second, the State was no party, & neither could nor would be held bound by it unless the Salt manufactured, was for the equal & fair use of her citizens. After a free consultation with the members representing the Counties, with a view of avoiding all difficulty & collision, as well as to secure an early supply of Salt, by increasing the number of furnaces engaged in its production, a proposition was made to Mr McFarlane by which the State agreed to adopt his contract, refund the money advanced by the stockholders, and employ him at the wages stipulated in his agreement, upon condition that the works were turned over to the State, & the Salt made at them to enter into the general supply. By this plan the production for the State would be increased one hundred & twenty five bushels per day; and competition, in relation to transportation, to that extent avoided. Up to this time, I have received no answer from Mr McFarlane, and cannot speak, as to the probability of its acceptance. Under no circumstances, yet presented to my mind, can I consent to the inequality of distribution set forth in the agreement, or to individuals interfering with the supply of water contracted for, upon the part of the State; and all the arrangements, for distribution, by the State, will proceed, as though no other arrangements were made by individuals or Companies.

But a more serious difficulty presents itself, in the want of transportation, and one, not so easily removed. A large quantity of Salt

for the State has now accumulated at Saltville, and our entire production there amounts to 800 bushels per day, and, notwithstanding the most earnest efforts of the State Agent Capt. Speed, none of it can be forwarded. The Confederate Government is using the branch Road, to the extent of its Capacity in transporting 2400 bushels per day, while the entire works are turning out about 7200 bushels per day.

The Secretary of War has been appealed to for Relief, and Cars from the Georgia Road applied for without success. I have, also telegraphed, to ascertain the prospect of obtaining Cars, from the Memphis & Charleston Road. But if the difficulty upon the Branch Road were removed— The Goverment is now using the Main Road, exclusively, for the removal of Troops. How long this will continue, it is impossible to say.

In the mean time, orders have been issued to the Agent at Saltville, to deliver to the Order of the Local agents, the proportionate quantities of the several Counties, in the amount on hand, if they can provide other Transportation

The subject is surrounded with difficulties, but I trust that perseverance will yet surmount them all; and that Providence, which has, thus far, upheld us, will not permit us to suffer beyond what we are able to bear.

Very Respectfully, yours,
(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala; November 18th, 1862.

Hon: G. W. Randolph, Sec'y of War; Richmond, Virginia.

Sir; I am advised, by Capt Harrand, that the defenses at Choctaw Bluff on the Alabama River, are not as strong as they should be, and that a competent Engineer is much needed, to direct the construction of additional defenses, at that point.

Not being able to procure a suitable Engineer in Ala. and being advised that Capt Jn° J. Clark, who has been engaged in the Construction of batteries & other works, on the James' River, is just such a man as is required at Choctaw Bluff— I must appeal to you, to assign him to duty at that place. The completion of this work, at an early day, is of so much importance, that I must beg your prompt & favorable action on this application. Please answer, as soon as you dispose of the matter, (by Telegraph;)

Respectfy, Your obt Servt.
(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov. 20th 1862.

Brig. Gen' D. Leadbetter, Chief of Engineer Dep't C. S. A. Mobile, Ala.

Sir. I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your interesting favor of the 14th inst, for which accept my thanks. The appropriation of $500.000, for the defense of Mobile, is subject to the disbursement of the Governor and I have addressed Col. Wm Dunn, Chairman of the Committee of Safety, on this subject, & herewith, hand you a copy of my letter. The number of staves & Iearns called for by you, in addition to previous requisitions, made by Capt Lieman, will be furnished, with as little delay as possible. We are, to-day, sending out the necessary orders for their impressment.

I shall be happy to co-operate with you by every means in my power; & cannot close this short letter without assuring you of the satisfaction afforded our people by the fact that you have, now the Chief Superintendence & direction of the Military defenses, upon which mainly depend the security & protection of the State.

Respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter;

Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department.
Montgomery Ala. Nov 20th, 1862.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond.

Sir; I have the honor to communicate to you an act of the General Assembly of Alabama, "to aid the Confederate Government in providing shoes for the Alabama Soldiers in the Confederate Army &c," & respectfully request that you will inform me, at an early day, what extent of provision has been made by the Confederate Government, for that purpose, & to what extent the aid of Alabama will be desirable, or acceptable.

Very Respectfully, Your obt Sert.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Alabama.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov. 20th 1862.

Gen: Jno. H. Forney, Commanding, Head Quarters, Mobile.

Sir; I send, herewith, Resolutions of the Legislature of Alabama, in relation to the defense of Mobile, & reflecting the feeling, & disposition of our people. Relying, as I do, with the utmost confidence, upon the skill, energy, & determination of the Military & Naval Officers, in charge of the defenses of Mobile, I can only add my readiness to aid, with all the resources at my command.

Very Resp'y, Yr obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Letters of the same tenor, as the above, were written to Admiral Franklin Buchanan—Commanding Naval Forces; & to the Hon. R. H. Slough, Mayor of Mobile.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 21st 1862.

Mr L. M. Pettibone, Selma;

Sir; I am in rec't of your letter of the 18th inst. The pressing demands of the State, for the iron on your landing, to make Salt-pans, will not admit of delay, in its shipment to the Foundry, in this City: to rely upon the uncertain temper or disposition of Commanders of boats, will not answer, at an hour like this. I have, therefore, thought proper to enclose you a Commission, as Impressment-Agent, and orders to impress Boats, to make them bring the Iron. The orders are indorsed on the Commission. It is of the utmost importance to get this Iron here as soon as possible; & I must urge you to compel every boat-passing up-to bring more or less of it, until it is all shipped. The State will duly account for all that is received, & will pay all proper & just charges.

Respectfully, Your Obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 22° 1862.

Mess's A. Knapp & Wm. N. Robertson, Mobile;

Gent; Your letter of 17th inst. to Hon C. C. Langdon proposing to engrave & print Treasury-Note Change bills, for the State, has been handed over to me. I was wholly unaware of the existence of any Engraving establishment in the State, & upon the passage of the act, put myself in communication with houses in Columbia, S. C, and have proposals from them. If you will send estimates-with samples of paper & prices, your proposals will be considered, & I suggest that it would be advisable, for one of your firm to visit Montgomery, immediately, with specimens & estimates, as more may be accomplished in a personal interview, than by correspondence.

Very Resp'y, Yrs
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala; Nov 22d 1863.

Mrs A. F. Hopkins, Mobile, Ala;

Madam; With the opportunity of sending you the enclosed dispatch-received here, I also, send you a Copy of Message, accompanying the reports of the Military Hospitals, transmitted to the Legislature, which will convey my opinion of the past operations of those under your charge, & my recommendations for the future.

As your person & name are so intimately connected with that of that of the State, and so much endeared to the Soldiers of Alabama, by your devoted & self-sacrificing efforts for their comfort, I have to request that you will transmit to me your ambrotype, to be placed in the Engraver's hands, for use upon the Treasury-notes bills- authorised to be issued, by a late act of our Legislature.

Your compliance will be appreciated as a compliment to the State, & will prove a great satisfaction to the families of the Soldiers into whose hands many many of these bills will pass, & who will gratefully remember the features of her, whose name has been kindly breathed, by husbands, brothers & sons.

Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 24th 1862.

R. B. Hyle, Esqr. State-agent, H. Gadsden, Ala.

Sir; In consequence of the difficulty of procuring transportation of Salt from Virginia, & the pressing necessities of the People of North-Alabama, You are authorised to issue permits to such citizens as will send Wagons for transportation, from the Salt-works, in Virginia, and you will allow the party transporting, to retain as much Salt, as he will need for his own use, & the balance to be turned-over to you, to be furnished for distribution, at cost & charges.

The parties transporting will pay you for the Salt, as heretofore instructed.

Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala

P. S. Hon. Meyander Snodgrass, of Cherokee County, has been appointed agent for the transportation of Salt from Virginia to Alabama, & sets-out to-day upon the business of his agency.

Similar letters sent to R. J. Scott— Fearn, Donegan, Ho.— R. N. Walden,— T. G. Norman, J. G. Norman,— S. H. Rayburn,— J. N. Ivys,— & B. H. Karsner, agents for the distribution of Salt.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov 26th 1862.

Genl Duff C. Green, Ass-master Genl of Alabama, Mobile.

Sir, I am informed by Mr Dillard, Clerk of Mr McGehee, Commissioner, that a quantity of Salt, for the State, has been shipped to Mobile, of which which he has been advised, for some time, & still none has come forward, while Salt for individuals is coming forward, freely, on the Rail-Road.

You will urge forward the shipments as rapidly as possible, and call upon the Rail-Road Agents, & insist that the preference shall not be given to individuals- over that belonging to the State.

It is of great importance to our people that this Salt shall be forwarded immediately- and as fast as received in Mobile. This Salt is for destitute families

Very Respectfully,
Yours
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

P. S. Ships all State Salt, for Montgomery, Via Rail-Road.

266

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 26th 1862

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond;
Sir; I have the honor to enclose to you, a letter received from Lieut. Col. Snodgrass, commanding 4th Alabama Battalion, requesting the Consolidation of the 4th and 6th Alabama Battalions, into a Regiment.

I refer you to Col. Snodgrass' letter for the facts & particulars, & would most respectfully, urge the consolidation of these & other Battalions into Regimental organization, both for the good of the officers & men, and, also, for greater efficiency. These Battalions are, comparatively, unknown, & difficult to communicate with; and efforts to clothe & relieve them, are, necessarily, hindered & prevented; If formed into Regiments & numbered & reported to this Department, their locality is known & can be traced.

I respectfully, ask your early attention to this subject.

Very Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant.
(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 26th 1862.

Mr. J. J. Hearne, Lowndsboro'.
Sir, In reply to yours of 22^d inst, I have only to call your attention to the 3^d section of the Impressment act, a copy of which is enclosed, & and an act to amend the former act, a copy of which is also enclosed, Which, you will see, confers upon the Impressment Agents full power to enforce the impressment of the property. These acts, the agents should carry out, in every case, in which any person fails or refuses to comply with the orders of any agent, authorized, by the Governor to impress property.

I trust the reports you refer to, in relation to Judge Bragg, are without foundation, for I can scarcely suppose, that a gentleman of his position, & one who is so deeply interested in the successful defense of the River, should refuse to bear his portion of the burden, or, even, should it be necessary, to contribute more than his just proportion, under the peculiar circumstances, by which we are surrounded. Be this, however, as it may, the highest interests of the country are involved in the procurent of the labor necessary for defense; and no class, rank, or condition should enjoy any immunity or be shown any favor.

Very resp'y, Y^r obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 26th, 1862

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond.
Sir; I enclose you, herewith, a copy of Resolutions of the Alabama Legislature approved 25th November—declaring the liability, of our Militia officers, to military duty, under the Conscription act, & on yesterday, I telegraphed to you to the same effect, as follows, "Alabama Legislature have resolved that Militia officers are liable to enrollment as conscripts. This will surprize many, & if permissible, I ask that they may have thirty days to volunteer into companies, in service prior to Sixteenth of April last."

The Spirit of our Legislature is fully up to the emergency of the Crisis, and the members are fully determined to remove every obstacle which might impede the action of the Confederate Government, in the defense of the Country and are now engaged in the consideration of acts, which will, no doubt, & all, relieving from the operation of the Exemption act, large classes of our State officers, & declaring them liable to Military duty. Many of these officers will be taken by surprize, at the announcement of their liability; and, in view of this fact, & of the determination of the Legislature reflecting the disposition, & feeling of our people, I respectfully suggest, that it will be but a fair return, that the Militia & other State officers thus affected (may be allowed thirty days to volunteer in Regiments re-organized & in service, prior to the 16th of April, 1862. This will but place them on a footing with others, who have, heretofore, been liable & render the enforcement of the conscription act more easy for the Enrolling Officers. Very Respectfully, Y^r obt Ser't,
(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 28th, 1862.

Gen^l Brayton Bragg: Head-quarters, Confederate Forces, Tullahoma, Tennessee.

General; I am in receipt, by yesterday's mail, of your welcome letter of the 23^d inst., for which I am obliged. The assurances given, as to the protection of Alabama by your gallant Army, I felt were secured by the position of your Command, & the unshaken confidence which I entertain, in your skill, & patriotic devotion. The people of North-Alabama have suffered so severely from the ravages of the Enemy, that I sincerely trust they may be spared further infliction. Our Legislature now in Session have appropriated one Million of dollars—or so much as may be required—for the defense of North-Alabama. So soon as the Legislature adjourns, and I can leave the Capitol, I propose a visit to that section of the State, & I will be obliged for any suggestions, which you may be able to make, in furtherance of my anxious desire to protect & defend our people. I have but little apprehension of an invasion by the Enemy, except by way of the Tennessee River, when the Winter- & Spring Rains shall have raised its waters. Are there no positions on this River, where we can plant batteries & obstructions sufficient to defend it? On this point, I have much doubt. The fact that the Enemy have West Tennessee & the mouth of the river, & that we have no boats in the Stream, or rail-road connection with it below the Shoals, seems to present almost a hopeless case. I take it, however, that the enemy, in West Tennessee, will pour down his columns into Mississippi with a view to co-operate with the fleet in its attempt to capture Vicksburg. Should he succeed he will, doubtless, then threaten Jackson & Mobile, but I have strong hopes that in these purposes, he will be defeated. There will be no inducement for the Enemy to ascend the Tennessee river except to gain your rear. But should he do this, & your command change front, I shall be gratified if you can take such a position, as will protect & defend North-Alabama—or as much of its Territory as possible, consistent with proper Military Strategy. I will, cordially, co-operate with you, by every means in my power, to enforce the Conscript Law. The Legislature have just authorised all the Militia Officers in the State, within the conscript age, and will, probably, declare other State Officers liable to enrollment, for the Confederate Service. Whatever may have been the noise & denunciation, in Congress or elsewhere, upon this subject, the people of Alabama duly appreciate the magnitude of the struggle in which we are engaged, and the State will continue, in the future, as she has done in the past, to do her whole duty. I thank you for your warm & high testimonial to the worth of Alabama troops. They are worthy of your highest confidence, & in the day of battle, will prove their devotion to their General & their Country.

The reception, by the people of Kentucky, of the Army of deliverance, sent for the redemption of their State, took the whole Country by surprise, & will be recorded to their everlasting disgrace in History. Notwithstanding this unfortunate & unanticipated result, the fruits of the March should have, forever, hushed all croakings, and complainings at the Generals Commanding. Much of it is, doubtless, to be attributed to the disappointment of too sanguine expectations, & to ignorance of the purposes of the Campaign. There are some who, though out of the army, and devoted to selfish gain & advancement, are, forever, fussing at every body in the public service—however pure-wise or efficient the officer may be. These self-conceited Creatures are logs in the way—Clogs on the Wheels of the Government. I hope, General, you will not allow your quietude of Mind to be disturbed by the Vaporings of these Men. Pursue your own high Convictions of duty to your country, & that Country will do you justice. There is no perfect Man; and as criticism must fall on all public Men, you can not escape it, if you would. I have, deeply, sympathised with you, in the severe & unwarranted attacks, in which some have seen proper to indulge; and I am gratified at this opportunity of renewing to you, the assurance of my undiminished confidence, & the high hopes, which I entertain, of your future success, & complete Vindication.

The confidence in the defenses of Mobile are growing stronger; but I hope we may receive additional reinforcements, as I know they are absolutely essential to successful resistance, when the Enemy makes the attack, with the forces he certainly will be bring against us. Resp'y, Y^r ob^t ser't. (Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

N.B. The letter addressed to me, from Murfreesboro' has not yet come to hand, & I do not yet know what you decided as to the Rail-Road, South of Tennessee river.

268

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 28th, 1862.

Peter Hamilton, Esq. Mobile.

Sir, I enclose you, herein, a check, in favour of the Treasurer of the "Committee of Safety of Mobile," for Fifty Thousand Dollars, to be expended for the Defences of the City. The will be acknowledged to this Department. I presume the Treasurer is a bonded Officer.

Respectfully, Yr obt Sert.
(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

P.S. I have, this morning, your letter of 25th inst. The bill enclosed Mr Langdon — or one like it — I hope, may be promptly passed by the Legislature.
J. G. Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala Nov^r 29th 1862.

Surgeon P. A. Ross, Medical Director, Mobile,

Dear Sir, I regret to say that the small-pox is prevailing in several Counties in South Alabama, & there is great danger that it may become Epidemic. There are, about Mobile, near one thousand slaves, employed in strengthening the fortifications, and these slaves are taken from eight or ten different Counties. We have, also, some two hundred at Choctaw-bluff, on the Alabama, & about half that number, at Owen's Bluff on the Big-bee. In a few days, the number, at each of these points, will be increased to seven or eight hundred. Should the disease once get a fast hold, at Mobile, or either of the other places, the whole country will be infected, and one of the consequences would be — that it would be an absolute impossibility to obtain Slave Labor, for the public defences on any terms. Justice to the owners, as well as a due consideration for the safety of the State, demands that every preventive measure against the introduction & spread of the disease, should be promptly adopted. I, therefore, take the liberty of urging upon you, the immediate Vaccination of all the Slaves employed on the public works, at the three points referred to.

I would, also, bring to your notice that Surgeons will be required at Choctaw- & Owen bluffs, for the purpose of attending to the sick, at each of those points, as well as the necessary supplies of Medicines & Medical Stores.

I hope you will give your earliest attention to the subjects of this letter, and advise me, as soon as possible, that I may have it in my power to give the necessary assurances to the owners, that their Slaves will be properly cared-for. I should, perhaps, mention, that Dr Henry Anderson, Medical purveyor at this place, informs me, that there are some half-a-dozen Medical Officers here, whose services are not required, & who could be detailed for the service referred to, without the slightest injury to the public interests.

Very Respy, Yr Obt Ser't
(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Nov^r 29th, 1862

Genl D. Ho. Green, Qr. Mr. Gen^l Mobile.

Sir, I am in rec't of your letter of the 26th inst. enclosing the 2600 $ Sterling Bills, purchased for account of the State, & I have, to-day paid your check for the same, drawn on me for $. 36.400. The mistake in the calculation was made by me. It is all very plain, now, & satisfactory.

Thanking you for your promptness,
I am,
Respectfully,
Your obt Ser't.

Jn^o Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Index to here
Nov 29th

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala Nov 29th 1862

Dr Allin O. Baldwin, Montgomery

Sir, I herewith enclose copy of the act of the Legislature "to prevent the introduction & spread of Small Pox in the State of Alabama", & respectfully tender you the appointment of Agent, under the act, hoping it may be consistent with your views, & not affecting injuriously, your other interests.

I feel the importance of adopting precautionary measures, and of placing at the head of the system, a Physician of acknowledged repute, & of energy & qualification, to give efficiency to the system adopted.

Very respectfully, Yours.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Dec 1st 1862

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond.

Sir, I respectfully ask your favorable consideration of the enclosed application of W. M. Perdue a Contractor with the State of Alabama, for the manufacture of Shoes, asking for a detail of S. J. Perdue, & M. M. Perdue, of the 5th Alabama Regiment, to enable him to complete said Contract.

Very Respectfully, Yr obt Servt,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 1st, 1862

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond, Va.

Sir, I have the honor to enclose an application from the officers of the 5th Alabama Battalion, praying to be consolidated with the 4th Alabama Battalion & to refer you to my communication of the 26th ult. enclosing a similar application on part of the officers of the 4th Battalion, to the same effect.

Very Respectfully, Yr obt Servt.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,

F. W. Francis, Esq. Mobile.

Sir, I would beg leave to call your attention to the enclosed being copy of a letter from Jno H. Woodward to Geo H. Lyon, Esq. which has been forwarded by Mr L. & which will explain itself. There is nothing in which the Slave-holder is so sensitive, as the failure to feed his Slaves. The Negroes, themselves, become dissatisfied & run-away; and the owner, still more dissatisfied, refuses to supply the labor at any & every consequence. I know, & appreciate, fully, the difficulties, in your department, of anticipating & providing for every contingency, but trust that the evils complained of if it exists may, at once, be corrected, or its effects may be manifested most injuriously to the interests of the Confederacy & the State, in delaying if not preventing the construction of the defenses.

Very Respectfully
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 1st. 1862.

Brig Gen Wm B. Bate, Huntsville, Ala.

Sir, I am, to-day, in receipt of your letter of 18th ult, & am happy to learn that through your appointment a vigorous enforcement of the Conscript Law is intended by those in Authority.

The State of Alabama, & its officials, have no control over the operation of that law, which is entirely under the direction of the Confederate authorities. Maj. Wm G. Swanson is the Chief Commandant, has his Camp at Montgomery, & Maj. Wm D. Waethall is commanding the

Camp, at Talladega. The Legislature has passed no act upon the subject, and its action is only to declare Militia-Officers-between the ages of 18 & 45 years, subject to Conscription. The State of Alabama-in its people & its Legislature, will give every facility to the recruiting of our armies-& I assure you of the hearty co-operation of the Executive. I send you copy of my message-alluding to this subject, and, also, of instructions from the War-Department.

Very Resp'y, Yr's
(signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

P.S. A copy of your letter has been sent to Maj. Swanson

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 1st 1862.

Messrs Jno Fraser & Co- Charleston, S.C.

Gentlemen, I, duly, received your esteemed letter of 11th ultmo. for which, am obliged. The people of Alabama are in such need of Cotton- & wool-cards, that our Legislature has made an appropriation, to obtain them, if possible, for distribution, to the several Counties of the State. Aside from other plans which I have adopted, I have deemed it expedient to purchase some Exchange, - which I, herewith, enclose you, to be used by you, for the importation of Cards for the benefit of this State, as suggested in your letter.

I enclose you, (1st & 2d) Bills of Exchange for twenty six hundred pounds Sterling (£2600) as follow.

Jno. Fraser & Co's bill on Messrs Fraser, Trenholm, & Co. Liverpool (payable in London) sixty days after sight, to order of B. H. Warren, Esq & endorsed by B. H. Warren, M. Meich, & Co, J. G. Lach, Thos. Branch & Sons, Jno. J. Cohen & myself, for £1.000.

Southern Bank of Alabama- Bill on Union Bank of London, dated 6th Oct. 1862, & payable, eighty five days after date, to order of Miller & Batre, & endorsed by them, & myself to you, for £1.000.

J. G. Lach's Bill on Bank of Liverpool, at sight, to order J. G. Lach. Cashier, endorsed by him- Thomas Branch & Sons, Jno J. Cohen myself, to you for £.500.

Neill Bro's bill on J. & C. Ollerenshaw, Agent Manchester, at 60 days sight, in London, to their own order, & indorsed by them & myself to you, for £100

The third of each sett, I have retained, until advised by you.

With these bills, I desire that you would purchase Cotton & Wool Cards, in the proportion of ONE Wool- to four Cotton,- or as near as may be- on a/c of the State of Alabama, in separate ventures- & by such vessels, as you may deem best to secure speedy & most certain delivery.

I am, very Resp'y, Yr's.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 2d 1862

M. W. Grand Master- W. H. Norris; M. W. Grand Lode of Alabama:

Sir; I have the honor, herewith, to communicate an account Stated & vouchers, showing the disbursement of the munificent donation, deposited with me, by the Grand Lodge of Alabama, for the benefit of the sick & wounded Soldiers of our State. The direction given the funds was determined, after due investigation, into the locality- condition & wants of Alabama Troops; & the investments made in such articles- & for such materials, as, in my judgement, would, most extensively, diffuse the benefits of this noble charity. In the month of May last, reports of the sickness & suffering among Alabama Troops- in the Army of Mississippi, induced me to send a Special Agent to investigate the facts; & , on being assured of their verity, & the great want of Hospital- accommodations. I appointed Dr. A. S. Bates of Marion, a physician of skill & patriotic devotion- a Surgeon for Alabama troops, & empowered him to proceed to Mississippi, and establish a special Hospital for their accommodation. The last voucher, embraced

in the accompanying account- for $.919 74/100, was advanced to him, with an additional amount from the State Treasury, to carry-out this purpose. He, promptly, repaired to Mississippi, & made all needful arrangements for the erection of Hospital-buildings, & purchased quantities of Hospital supplies, which were en route for their destination, when the army of the Mississippi was suddenly broken-up, & many thousands- under command of Gen.l Bragg, and embracing the far-greater proportion of Alabama troops in that State, proceeded to Tennessee. This movement, with the Sabbetter- & more comfortable accommodation which was, afterwards, afforded to the troops remaining in Mississippi, caused Dr Bates to suspend all further operations. The Hospital Stores- on hand- were distributed to the best advantage, & the materials purchased for the erection of buildings, ordered to be sold. The funds unexpended by him, & the amounts received, thus far, from a re-sale of the materials, have been returned by him to the Treasury of the State, including the sum of $.919 74/100 — the amount of the last voucher enclosed.

This amount therefore, remains unexpended, & I have deemed it proper to report the fact with the explanation. Should the Grand-Lodge prefer its disbursement, in any given direction- or for any special purpose, their wishes shall be strictly observed. If no instructions be given, I will distribute it- as, in my own best judgement, will further secure the benevolent objects contemplated by the donation.

I have the honor to be
Most Respectfully,
Yr obt Servt
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Decr 4th 1862.

Hon James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond.

Sir; In forwarding the enclosed application, for the detachment of Lieut. Robert Greig, 32d Ala. Regiment, for duty, on defenses in Mobile Harbor and Bay, for his promotion, I beg to add my earnest recommendation of the purport of the application.

You will observe that his detachment, for the special service, is highly recommended by Genl Leadbetter; & the promotion of Lieut, Greig to a majority, would seem but a fair equivalent for the service required- and the sacrifices to be made by him.

Very respectfully, Your obt Servt
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter; Govr of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Decr 4th 1862

P. Hamilton, Esqr Mobile;

Sir; I am, to-day, in receipt of your letter of the 1st inst. enclosing an appeal, by Executive Committee & others, for heavy Ordnance, for the defense of Mobile. This necessity has been urged by me, heretofore, upon the attention of the Government; & I take great pleasure, in now forwarding the appeal, sent to me, & in renewing, officially, my earnest request that it be granted. I have, to-day, enclosed a copy to both the Army & Navy Departments.

I dispatched you, on the 2d inst. to turn over the $.50.000 to Mr Wheeler, Treasurer of the Executive Committee.

Very Respy Yr obt Servt
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Decr 4th 1862.

Hon C. G. Memminger, Secy of the Treasury, Richmond, Va.

Sir, I am in receipt of your letter of 28th Ult. for which, am obliged. Fully understanding the importance of the State-action, by you suggested, & anxious to devote all our resources, if need be, to the maintenance of the Confederate Cause, the Alabama Legislature- in advance of your letter to me, have prepared

a guaranty of the Confederate Bonds, by the individual States, in proportion to their representation in Congress. I enclose you, herein, a Copy of the joint Resolutions adopted, and I have communicated a Copy to the President & to the Governors of the respective States

With much esteem, I am, very truly, yours.
(Signed,) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec^r 4th 1862

To his Excellency——————
Governor of——————

Sir: In transmitting to you the accompanying Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of Alabama, proposing to the several States of the Confederacy, to guarantee its War-Debts, I hope for the ready co operation of your State. Embarked, as we are, in a common cause, with a common destiny, our separate interests are indissolubly linked with the prosperity of our Confederacy, and our separate State action should be so directed, as to bear, directly, upon the advancement of the Credit of the Confederacy, to strengthen its hands for the attainment of our Common Desire.

I have the honor to be, very Resp^y, Yr obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

N. B. Copies of this letter were sent to the Governors of the Several Confederate States.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec^r 5th 1862.

Jefferson Davis, Prest of the Confederate States,

Sir; The Resolutions of the Gen^l Assembly, herewith forwarded, are but another evidence of the determination of the State of Alabama to abide by the common lot of her sister States, & to do all in her power, to sustain the Common Cause.

Copies have been sent, as requested, to the Governors of the several States, & it is to be hoped that the several Legislatures - now in session, will concur in the measure, to the advancement of the Common Cause.

It was, with no small gratification, that after the passage & approval of the joint resolutions, I received a note from the Hon Sec^y of the Treasury, suggesting the propriety of such a guarantee

Very Respect^y, Yr obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec^r 5th 1862.

Mrs E. L. Walker, Pres^t Mobile Aid Society.

Madam; I thank you for your kind letter of 29th Nov^r, & for the suggestion contained in reference to Mrs Woodall, whose invaluable & devoted services are not unknown to me. The Act to which you refer has not yet received the final sanction of the Legislature, & I cannot yet determine as to its probable features; but I shall deem it fortunate for the State, if it is so framed, as to enable me to obtain her invaluable services, for the benefit of the Soldiers of Gen^l Bragg's army. I am highly gratified to know the extent & success of the efforts of the Mobile Aid Society.

With my best wishes for its future & extended usefulness, & assurances of my personal esteem,

I am, Very Respectfully,

Your obt Ser't.

(Signed). Jn^o Gill Shorter. Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 5th 1862

Maj. Gen[l] Sterling Price, Commanding N. Head-Quarters, Tupelo, Miss.

Sir; You will confer a favor, by sealing & giving direction to the enclosed containing Resolutions of the General Assembly of Alabama in relation to guaranteed of the War-Debt of the Confederate States, so that the same may reach if possible, the Governor of the State of Missouri.

Very Respfy Yours,
(Signed) Jn[o] Gill Shorter, Gov[r] of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 5th 1862

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond,

Sir; I invite your attention to the enclosed Memorial from a portion of the Committee of Safety of Mobile, not because I suppose that the War-Department has not already given an earnest consideration to the subject of the defenses of Mobile, or that it is not, anxiously, concerned for its successful resistance to the efforts which will, doubtless, soon be combined against it, but because I know the greatly extended Scope of action of the Department, calls for the exercise of forethought, & careful provision in so many points now threatened, that, perchance, some point-now available- & some means- now at hand- may possibly, overlooked- in these incessant demands upon your attention. The high character- the unwearied zeal- the earnest devotion, and the steady co-operation of the Committee with the Military & Naval authorities- give, to their representations, more than ordinary weight. They are not of the weak & timorous class, disposed to fear & fly, at the first approach of the Sails of the Enemy, but men who will fight, in defense of their homes- until their City is no longer tenable, & be the first to apply the torch- to render themselves homeless, rather than the Enemy shall enjoy the Shelter of the roofs which have protected them & their Children.

Both for the Land & Sea defenses, they have, cheerfully, expended their means, & given of their time & energies, under the direction of the Authorities, in the belief that, in so doing, they were protecting- not only their City, but the rich country which had given it wealth & existence, & were, also guarding the lines of intercommunication.

They speak but my own thoughts, when they say, That, to do this successfully, will require heavy guns- & a reserve corps- as my communications to your predecessors will fully show. I hope it may be in your power to provide for these wants, and that your means may be made available before the Enemy can make his appearance. The importance of Mobile invites his attack in force, & with the means of Defense called for- at hand, & in position, I shall rely, with confidence, upon the Skill & Energy of the Military & Naval Commanders, with the courage & ardor of those under their Command, & the spirit & determination of the people, that, when the struggle ends, Mobile & its Defenses may be ours.

I have the honor to be, Very resp'y
(Signed) Jn[o] Gill Shorter, Gov[r] of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 5th 1862.

Hon. S. R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy, Richmond.

Sir; The enclosed Memorial deserves the attention & consideration of the Authorities, from the high character of the Memorialists, & their familiarity with the means & the necessities of their position. These gentlemen are a part of the Committee of Safety, selected by the Citizens of Mobile, to co-operate with the Confederate & State Authorities, in the defense of that City. To this they have given their means- their time- & their Energies; They have studied the difficulties & the advantages of their position, and made themselves familiar with the localities suitable for defense, or inviting attack. They are nerved with determination, to defend to the last extremity, and to leave, to the in-

my, a barren conquest- if conquest- if conquer he must: The attack upon Mobile cannot, now be long delayed- if we may judge by the note of preparation by the Enemy. In its capture or destruction, he sees an avenue to a country of wealth, which he can impoverish, & desolate; or compel to yield a rich tribute to his exhausted treasury. He well knows, too, that an infant Navy is in course of construction upon its waters, which, in the future, will withdraw his fleets from the coast, to guard his commerce- imperilled upon the seas. This, of itself, would be sufficient to invite his attack, & should incite us to the more vigorous & earnest defense. For this, men, heavy guns are necessary- indeed essential & indispensable. I trust for these, to the resources, & energy of the War- & Navy Departments; and, feeling as I do, with the Memorialists, the great necessity of holding so important a position, neglecting nothing, which may contribute to render it impregnable, respectfully, urge that no means be left untried to accomplish the end.

I feel assured that, if you can contribute to this, it will afford you gratification so to do, & that you will pardon my earnestness, & excuse my importunity, in view of the great interests at Stake.

Very Resp'y, Yr obt Servt

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala

Executive Department

Montgomery, Ala. Dec 4th 1862.

Mr A Bowen, Wedowee, Randolph Co. Ala.

Sir I am in receipt of a paper, purporting to contain the proceedings of a public meeting of citizens in Randolph Co, held at Wedowee, on the 28th Ultimo, Signed by yourself, as Chairman, & J. H. Davis, as Secretary. These proceedings set forth the privations & sufferings of the families of Soldiers in Randolph County on account of the absence of a large number of her patriotic men, in the Service of their Country. I deeply sympathize with them, in this dark hour of our Country's Trial, but devoutly hope, that the final issue of the mighty struggle, in which we are engaged, will not only restore the blessings of an honorable peace, but deliverance- now & forever- from abolition power & tyranny. For the accomplishment of this end, we must fight on, and suffer on if need be, until it is achieved. The General assembly of Alabama- with the wise foresight, and tender solicitude, which shall, forever distinguish that Body, have appropriated two millions of dollars, for the support and maintenance of the indigent families of her brave Soldiers in the field. The proportion for Randolph County, for the first Quarter of the Fiscal year, will be $. 18.000, which will be available to the County, in a short time.

"One of your Resolutions affirms, that the further execution of the Conscript Law, in Randolph County- should be suspended; and another requests the President to suspend it; and the last resolution requests me to forward the proceedings to the President," and ask of him, "the relief sought."

Now, the Conscript Law is an act of the Confederate Congress, constitutionally passed, and the President has no power to suspend it; it is his sworn duty to enforce it. I, therefore, must decline to forward the Resolutions to him. As Governor of Alabama, it is my duty, in obedience to the will of her people, and in accordance with my own high convictions of duty, to aid the Confederate authorities, in every legal & proper way, to strengthen the military power, which is now being used for the defense of our Country; and I shall do it, by every means- moral & physical at my command. This great, & proud State- with all her vast interests imperilled in the mighty struggle now going on- and with her own coast, & Territory threatened by attack, by the most unscrupulous foe of ancient, or modern times, cannot- will not- for a single moment, hesitate, in her path of duty, to herself, or to the Confederate Cause. And it is, with the deepest regret, that I have seen, in the proceedings communicated to me, a disposition, on the part of any of our people, to evade- or be relieved from the onerous burdens & hardships which a cruel Enemy has imposed upon us, & which, we must,

[See page 277; page 276 being removed by order of the Governor]

273

patriotically endure, if we would vindicate & preserve the inestimable rights of self-government, inherited from our fathers. A people who are unwilling to make these sacrifices, can never maintain their freedom. Alabama asks no immunity from burdens imposed upon her sister-Confederate States; nor will the loyal and patriotic citizens of Randolph, ask discriminations in their favor - not accorded to the citizens of every other County in the State. Let us, as in the past, be united in the Future, and continue to give our men and our Means, in aid of the Common Cause - which should be dearer to us than all earthly considerations - until the final victory, shall crown our arms.

index No here

Resp'y Yr obt Sert.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Dec^r 10th 1862.

Mr R. B. Lawyer, Savannah, Geo.

Sir; I have Contracts under which the State of Alabama is receiving Eight hundred bushels of Salt per day, at Saltville, Virginia, but we are unable to move it for want of Cars. The necessity is most urgent - I cannot obtain Cars from any of the Upper Roads. Will it be in your power to rent me, for the use of the State, any cars from the Central or South-Western Roads? If I could get any number, it would be a great accommodation; and, for the purpose mentioned, I believe you will let me have them, if they can be spared. An early reply is respectfully requested.

Your obed^t Ser^t.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Dec^r 11th, 1862.

Mr N. S. Brooks, Alabama Salt-Works.

Sir, I am in receipt of your letters of 22nd ult, & 1st inst; & in reply, have to say, that I regret that I cannot assent to your request, to pay you for your valuable Services, in Salt. The object of the State is to furnish Salt to its own Citizens, as cheaply and rapidly as possible; and, to induce them to furnish labor promptly, they were promised payment, for the hire of Negroes, to an amount of Salt, sufficient to answer their individual & family use. This provision will, likewise, be accorded to you. The proposition for a lease of the State-Salt Works, I am constrained to decline, in view of the act recently adopted by the Gen^l Assembly.

Respectfully,
Your Obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Dec^r 12th 1862

Gen^l D. C. Green, 2. M. Gen^l of Ala, Mobile.

Sir; In reply to your letter, of 5th inst, enclosing blank receipt of Mobile & Great Northern R. Road, I have to say that the State must submit to the use of the form, as other Shippers, but upon an examination of other authorities, I am well satisfied that the Company have no right to impose such Conditions - & that they are illegal & void.

Respectfully,
Your obt Ser't,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,
Gov^r of Ala.

P. S. The Legislature made no change in your office, much to my gratification.

J. G. S.

278

274

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Dec. 11th, 1862.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War; Richmond

Sir; I have the honor to enclose, for your favorable consideration, the accompanying application, on the part of the 32d Alabama Regiment, Col. McKinstry for removal to Mobile, for the purpose of recruiting, & establishing the health of the Regiment & the procuring of clothing.

The Regiment has done hard & gallant service, & I am informed, is much reduced in Number - with no prospect of being recruited from the Conscript Camps, unless sent to Alabama.

Very Respfy, Yr obt Servt.
(Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Dec. 12th 1862.

Col. L. C. Garland, Univ. of Ala.

Sir; The immense pressure upon me has prevented an earlier reply to your letter of the 20th, ult. in relation to a lease of the Coal-beds belonging to the University. In reply, I have to say that I am not familiar enough with the matter, to form a satisfactory opinion. The demand for Coal, by the City of Mobile, and by the Government, is a real & vital want, and I should favor any plan practicable - to meet it, if consistent with other important interests, and if it can be done upon reasonable terms. I am inclined - to accomplish this end - to favor a lease, provided the Lessee will contract to limit his prices, to guard against extortion. I regret my inability to write more fully.

Respectfully, Your Obt Servt.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

index to here

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Dec. 15th 1862.

Hon. A. Snodgrass, Dalton, Geo.

Dear Sir; I am in rec't of your letter of 12th inst. from Bristol, for which, am obliged. Your arrangement to have Salt hauled by wagons, to Bristol, is approved. You have full direction - & I hope you will use it - to get the Salt away & into Alabama, as fast as possible. Bills of Costs & charges must go forward with each shipment to the State - Agents, so they may know how to fix the price. The State must get back the cost, & that is all the Agents are authorized to charge.

I am corresponding with Georgia Rail Road Companies, in an effort to get Engines & Cars, to go to Saltville. Certainly, the East Tennessee and Virginia Road will not refuse to let the Trains go over their Roads to Saltville, if I can procure them. Write me every few days - so I may keep advised; and let me know, immediately, what the prospect will be of running Georgia Cars to Saltville - if I can get any. Do not, however, relax your efforts to get Trains from Tennessee.

The Counties must be supplied, in proportion to their population & I have, to-day sent Capt. Speed a list of the Counties, & their population. Also, I enclose you one herein. The shipments must be made in rotation, and as equally and justly apportioned as possible.

Hoping to hear from you again, in a few days, I am.

Respy
Yr obt Servt.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.
Gov of Ala

Executive Department.

Montgomery, Ala, Dec^r 15th 1862

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond.

Sir; I have the honor to introduce to you, James A. Clendenin, Esq^r a gentleman of character & standing in this State, who is the bearer, on my part, of a copy of a joint letter from the Governors of Georgia, Florida, & Alabama, requesting the formation of a new Military Department, as therein specified. Mr Clendenin has been engaged in a contract for the manufacture of Salt, upon the coast of Florida, & his works have been recently broken up by the Enemy; he is well acquainted with country, & can give you full & complete information of the necessity of more efficient Military protection. Numbers are escaping from the operations of the Conscript Law, & making the coast now under the control of the Enemy their refuge. The appointment of Gen^l Howell Cobb to the Department recently organized, is highly satisfactory, & the extension of his Command would, with the organization recommended, accomplish all that is desired.

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter; Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department;

Montgomery, Ala. Dec^r 15th 1862.

Distribution of Salt;

By a recent act of the Legislature, the distribution of Salt is to be made upon the basis of the ~~white~~ population of the several Counties; and you will make shipments, accordingly, as nearly as possible, disregarding insignificant fractions, and making as fair an average as possible, upon the following numbers - taken from the Census of 1860.

Stations.		Counties.	Population ~~White~~ Whites	Slaves	Total
Gadsden,	to supply	DeKalb,	9.853.	.852	10.705
		Cherokee,	15.322.	3.038.	18.360
		Calhoun,	17.169.	4.370	21.539
		Talladega,	14.634.	8.886	23.520
		St. Clair,	9.236.	1.776	11.012
Guntersville,	to supply	Blount,	10.194.	.671	10.865
		Marshall,	9.599.	1.813	11.412
Scottsboro,	to supply	Jackson,	14.829.	3.455	18.284
Huntsville,	to supply	Madison,	11.685.	14.765	26.450.
Athens,	to supply	Limestone,	7.215.	8.089	15.304.
Florence,	to supply	Lauderdale,	10.639.	6.781.	17.420
Decatur,	to supply	Morgan,	7.592.	3.739	11.331
		Lawrence	7.173.	6.803	13.976.
Tuscumbia,	to supply	Franklin,	10.120.	8.508.	18.628

Athens will be the Depot for the supply of Lauderdale;

Letters have been sent to Messrs Speed & Snodgrass, but not recorded.

280

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala, Dec^r 16th. 1862.

Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States, Richmond,

Sir; I respectfully, submit, for your favorable consideration, the enclosed Communication from the Warden and Inspectors of the Alabama Penitentiary, in relation to the exemption of the Guards, Overseers, Deputy-Warden, & clerk of the Penitentiary from the operation of the Conscription-act: In its zeal to aid the Government, the Legislature has made these Employées subject to duty; but the necessities of the State - and the proper care and employment of the Convicts demand that trained, competent, reliable, and experienced officers should not be changed, and the reason applies - with increased force, in consequence of the dangers of the Times, and the difficulty of procuring suitable persons to fill the places of those who may be displaced.

I would, therefore, respectfully, request that you will grant an order, that these officers and Employées be exempted from the operations of the Act.

Very respectfully, Your Obedient Servant,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery Ala. December 17th, 1862

Mr Walter P. McFarlane, Centre Cherokee Co. Alabama.

Dear Sir; I received, yesterday, your letter of the 13th inst, by the hands of Judge Standifer, & amid a severe pressure of business, reply thereto as fully as my opportunity will allow. The tone and character of your letter are manly & patriotic, & I cannot express to you the regret I feel, on account of the unfortunate conflict which seems to have arisen as to the Salt-contracts, made by the State & your Company, with Stewart Buchanan, & Co. According to your request, I send you herewith, copies of the Contracts made by the State with McClung & Jaques, & with "the Alabama Salt-manufacturing Co." You will see that McClung & Jaques are to manufacture for the State at $. 1.75 per bushel, as long as I think the interests of the State require. It is true that I obligated the State to take 100.000 bushels, "in any event." That stipulation was put in to secure them against loss, if the blockade should be raised, & I desired to stop receiving. On the other hand, they are to go on, if I desire it, after the 100.000 bushels are delivered. The right to terminate the contract is secured to the State, & not to them. The Alabama Co. are to deliver 50.000, at $. 1.75 per bushel, and, after that, 50.000 more, at $. 2.50 if I choose to take it. If I don't take it, they are to ship to Alabama, & sell to actual consumers, at not more than $. 5. per bushel. But you will read both Contracts for yourself.

As South- & Middle Alabama could be supplied, as I hoped, from Clarke Co. I made these Contracts for Salt from Virginia, with a view of supplying the following 14 Counties, in North Alabama; To wit: Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Morgan, Limestone, Madison, Jackson, DeKalb, Marshall, Blount, St. Clair, Cherokee, Calhoun, & Talladega. At the time I made the Contracts, I did not know that your Company was moving in the matter, & I did what I believed was the best that could have been done, for all the Counties named.

You admit, in your letter, that the Salt, under the Contracts which I have made, will cost less than the Salt made by your Company; but you seem to think that the five Counties, you represent would receive, under your Contract, more Salt than they will get, under my Contracts. In this you are mistaken, as I can easily show. Under your Contract, you make 125 bushels, per day, which, divided among 5 Counties, gives 25 bushels per day, to each County. Now, under my Contracts, McClung & Jaques are to make from 300 to 500 per day; they are now turning out 300 per day. "The Alabama Manufacturing Co." are to make 500 per day; my latest information from Saltville is, that they would turn-out that quantity on & after the 15th inst. The aggregate amount, then, of the two Contracts, will be 800 bushels per day; & that divided among 14 Counties will give a

fraction over 3/ bushels per day, to each County — more than double the quantity to your counties, over what they could get under your Contract. Now if the people of these Counties can be furnished their Salt at cheaper rates & in double the quantity, under the contracts, which, as Executive of the State, I have made for their benefit, you see, at once, how inadmissible it is, for me to agree to any modifications, which would deprive them of their just rights. Upon an examination of the Contracts — and a review of the whole matter, your own good judgement will sustain me in the course, which duty has impelled me to adopt. If you will make the Calculation, you will see that it will take "the Ala. Manufacturing Co" 100 days to make 50 000 bushels at 500 per day: it will take M^c Clung & Jaques 333 1/2 days to make 100.000 bushels at 300 per day. This will be the result, if no accidents occur — & they turn-out the regular quantity every day. It is true that the Ala' Manufacturing Co" may finish up their Contract by the Middle or last of March, for the 50.000 bushels, & I hope they may, but they will go on and, I doubt not, will furnish their Salt to the same Counties, because they are limited in price, & can ship to them cheaper than to this part of the State. I can arrange that matter with them, I hope, so as to continue the supply to North Alabama.

But satisfied that your company went into the matter from a laudable desire to meet the wants of your people, as I am, to increase the present supply to all North-Alabama, I have, heretofore advised you that I would adopt the Contract made by your Company, & continue you in the agency to manufacture Salt, provided that all the salt is turned over to the State-Agent at Saltville, to be distributed, in just proportion, among all the Counties, in the same way as the Salt from the other Contracts is distributed. It shall be sent in, & sold for Cost & charges. And the Stockholders shall have the right to be furnished the amount needed for their own family use; which arrangement, under the circumstances, will be fair & just between them & the State. If you would come down, in person, & see me, and bring your accounts of Expenditures, I think we could adjust the matter satisfactorily, & to the interest of all concerned. It is proper for me to add, that copies of my Contracts, and all arrangements made by me to procure Salt, were communicated to the Legislature, & were ratified & confirmed by them, & they have directed that the Salt shall be distributed to the Counties, in proportion to population, & at the rate of 25 lbs per Capita, until all are supplied; I will state, further, that I convened, in the Executive Office, during the Session, all the Delegations from the five Counties you represent, & submitted all the Contracts & Correspondence upon this matter, for their Examination, & without a dissenting voice, they decided that the course which I have adopted, was the proper one.

In Conclusion, I beg leave to repeat my invitation to you to come down, & let us see if we cannot adjust the matter upon a basis which will do justice to all, & satisfy all.

Resp'y Yr obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 17th 1862

Hon C. G. Memminger, Sec'y of Treas'y Richm'd, Va

Sir; Our Legislature adjourned on the 9th inst. Your dispatch, suggesting amendment of joint resolutions relative to an indorsement of the Confederate debt, came to hand too late for further action.

I regret it, as there would have been no difficulty in the way of such an amendment. Our people are ready to stand by the Confederacy to the last extremity.

Resp'y Yr obt Serv't.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,

Gov'r of Ala.

282

Executive Department.

Montgomery, Ala. Dec 17th, 1862

Col. Arthur C. Beard, Guntersville, Marshall Co, Ala.

Sir; Brigadier Gen[l] Jackson, commanding at Bridgeport, has made a requisition upon the Executive of Alabama, for seven hundred serviceable Slaves whose labor is required on the Fortifications at that point. The speedy completion of these defenses will contribute much to the safety of North Alabama; and I feel it to be my duty to take such measures, as will secure the services of the required number of Slaves, at the earliest possible day. To accomplish this result, I have appointed you a special Aide-de-Camp, with the rank and pay of a Col. of Dragoons, during the time you are actually in service, and, in that capacity, you are authorized to act as my representative in procuring the hands required.

From the condition of North Alabama, the better course will be to impress these hands, instead of hiring them. This, I am authorized to do, under the act of the last session of our Legislature, Copies of which, I enclose, and also, the amendments thereto, together with an appointment for yourself as impressment-agent & some blank appointments, signed by myself, which you are authoired to fill, & the agents appointed will act under your directions. The Slaves should be provided with a change of clothing & bedding, & they sh[d] have provisions enough to last to Bridgeport, and if the last is not provided by the Confederate Authorities, it must be impressed. The transportation by Rail-Road will be furnished also, by the Confederate Authorities. For the property impressed, receipts will be executed, in duplicate, one of which will be delivered to the person from whom the property is impressed, at the time it is received by the impressment-agent, & the other returned to this office. You will observe, from the 2d Section of the act, that the owners of every thirty Slaves have the right to select a white man to oversee the Slaves - & attend to their police, but he must not be subject to conscription. The Confederate Government pays the Slaves twenty dollars a month, and the White man two dollars a day, furnishing all with subsistence & medical attention: but as the Slaves impressed from this Section of the State - to work on the River & bay defenses, receive One dollar for each working-day - I am not disposed that those impressed from North-alabama shall receive less; and if the Confederate Authorities decline to pay this rate, the State will pay the difference. As I regard the necessity for these Slaves, as pressing, the Impressment Agents are authoired to impress from slave holders, owning less than ten Slaves; and as time is a matter of the utmost importance, you should adopt that course which will have the whole number of Slaves required, at the point designated at the earliest day. Experience has proved that the better course is to send them forward, by detachments of thirty, sixty, ninety, one hundred & twenty &c according to the facilities of transportation. You will please keep me advised of what you do, by reporting to me, from time to time, as may be necessary.

I enclose the order, appointing you my aid-de-camp, remain,

Very Respectfully,
Your obt Serv[t]

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter
Gov[r] of Ala.

Gen[l] I will send an officer of his staff - or one specially detailed - with this communication, if you will carry out the views of the Comm's Gen[l] so far as it can be done, consistently with the terms of the Impressment act. I omitted, also, to say, that under an amendment, which had not been printed, no wagon or team can be impressed, except it be upon the Plantation of the owner.

J. G. S.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 19th 1862

Mr R. R. Cuyler, Savannah, Georgia.

My dear Sir; I don't know how to thank you, for your kind letters of the 13th & 17th Inst. The Salt at Saltville is intended for our people in North Alabama, & I should have so advised you in my former letter. We can get it through from Chattanooga; & if your train can deliver it there, it can return, I hope, without inconvenience, & perhaps, with more expedition, to convey additional supplies for Georgia. I will send a messenger, on notice, to accompany the train, & make all needful advances, and will promptly remit, to your order, whatever sum you may deem proper to report, for the use of the train. The letter from Gov Brown - enclosed by you, - is herewith returned.

With a grateful heart, I am, your friend & obedient servant.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Alabama.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 22nd 1862.

Mr John P. Figh, Lessee, Lower Salt-reservation, Clarke Co.

Sir; I herewith enclose you a copy of the act, recently passed by the Legislature, proposing modifications of your Contract for the lease of the lower Salt-reservation of the State, which proposals you accepted, in writing, on the 11th inst. I have, to-day, written Mr A. G. McGehee "Salt commissioner for Alabama", & have authorized & directed him, as my Agent, under the provisions of the 2 Section of the act, to set-apart, & lay-off for your exclusive use & control, so much of the lands included in your lease, as will secure you against any interference or hindrance in the enjoyment of your lease, or in the procurement of water adequate to the supply of any number of boiling furnaces, machinery, & other fixtures, necessary to the full enjoyment of your lease. This duty, I hope, may be performed by him, satisfactorily to you, and all other parties concerned.

It will be necessary for the State to have an Agent, resident upon the lower Reservation, to receive the two-fifths of the Salt manufactured by you, as well as the Salt which may be due the State from other Lessees, & to superintend the Sacking, & Shipment of the same, Until I can appoint some proper person to fill this position, Mr McGehee has been directed to attend to the matter, in person, or through some Agent, to be designated by him. Inasmuch as this Salt, by the terms of the act, is to be furnished to the Counties, in proportion to population, & is to be placed under the control of the "County Commissioners" of the respective Counties, to be distributed by them; The Sacks or barrels containing it, must be marked or branded "County Commissioners," so as to distinguish it from the Salt to be shipped, by Mr A. G. McGehee, from the State-works, which will be marked, or branded "Alabama". I will direct an immediate shipment, to you, of Sacks of the proper kind, which must hereafter be used. Any Sacks which you may have on hand, marked "Alabama", you will turn over to Mr McGehee.

I desire the divisions of Salt between you and the State to be made, at least, twice a week, so that the State's proportion may be shipped as rapidly as possible. I shall give no orders on you, for Salt, hereafter, and all you will have to do will be to divide-out & deliver the State's proportion of 2/5 to the State-Agent, who will receive & forward it, under instructions. You are required, by the act, to keep a correct account of all Salt manufactured, and render monthly statements thereof to the Governor, under oath.

Hoping that you may soon increase your works, so as to turn-out a far greater yield, & that you may realize a handsome remuneration, for the energy & commendable zeal, which you have exhibited, in the manufacture of Salt for our people.

I am your obedient Servant,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 20th 1862.

Hon. J. P. Benjamin, Sec'y of State, Richmond,

Sir; I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 13th inst, announcing the death of Mr P. R. Wyckoff, of Mobile, on board of British Steamer Melita, on her voyage from Nassau, (N.P.) to London, with accompanying inventory, & correspondence.

Your letter, & documents have been forwarded, as requested, to Col. Virgil Gardner, of Selma, Ala. Who is understood to be connected with the Parties, & will give proper direction to the papers.

Very Respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,
Governor of Alabama.

Indorsed to Secretary

284

Executive Department
Montgomery, Alabama, Dec 22d 1862

Duff C. Green, 2d M. Gen[l] of Ala. Mobile.

Sir, I enclose you, herein, printed copies of two several acts passed by the Legislature, in relation to the Manufacture, Sale, & distribution of Salt, which, for convenience of reference, I have marked N° 1. & N° 2. Act N° 1 refers to the works established by the State, upon the "Upper Reservation," and act N° 2 refers to the lease, by John P. High, of the "Lower Reservation," and all other Lessees from the State. By Act N° 1, the Salt is to be distributed among the inhabitants of the State, and sold at prices not to exceed the cost of the manufacture & sacking, with transportation & other incidental charges added. In its distribution, due regard is to be had for the wants of Counties remote from means of public transportation; and no one is allowed to buy it, except for private or family use, nor in quantities greater than 25 lbs per Capita, "until all the people of the State are supplied". By Act N° 2, the salt received from J. P. High, and all other Lessees from the State, is to be distributed among the Counties in proportion to population; and the portion of the several Counties is subjected to the control of the County Commissioners, who are responsible for its distribution in the mode provided in the act. The price for this Salt is to be fixed by the Governor, and as it will cost the State nothing for its manufacture, and is to be furnished to the families of Soldiers in the Service, in preference to others, I propose to fix the price, in the different Counties, at a sum which will cover Sacking, transportation, & other charges by the way, with the addition of a small percentage to cover Salary of a Resident Agent at the works, whose business it shall be to receive & ship the Salt.

As the prompt & rapid shipment of the Salt provided for the people by both these Acts is a matter of prime importance, I have determined to place the whole matter of Shipment & distribution, under your immediate direction & control, subject only to the limitations herein expressed, which are adopted for public convenience, and to enable you to accomplish the work with greater facility. As the Salt made by Mr A. G. McGehee, "Salt Commissioner for Alabama," is to be distributed upon one basis, and sold at the cost of production, with incidental Charges added, while the Salt received of John P. High & other Lessees is to be distributed upon another basis, and sold at such just & fair price, as the Governor may fix, I have directed that the accounts shall be kept separate & distinct, at the works, and that the Shipments from the State works shall be marked, or branded "Alabama", & the Shipments from High's works, & the furnaces of all other Lessees, shall be marked, or branded "County Commissioners". You will be furnished herewith a list of the different Counties, with their population, & the names of the various State Agents, heretofore announced to you; but it now becomes necessary, in order to dispatch distribution, to appoint additional agents at other places, convenient for deliveries to counties more remote from the lines of transportation, as well as those on the lines. You will proceed, at once, to determine the different localities, appoint Agents & prepare their instructions, & submit the results to this office, for examination, and approval. Very Respectfully, Y[r] obt Serv[t].

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov[r] of Ala

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala, Dec 20th 1862

Geo. W. Adams, Esq: Superintendent Central R. Road. Macon, Georgia.

Sir; In his letter of 17th from Savannah, Mr Lewyler, obligingly informed me that he would run a train for the State of Alabama, to Saltville, Va. in the course of next week, & requested me to have my orders, or my Messenger ready, whenever he or you should telegraph me.

Col. Pollard suggests, that as your own officers will accompany & control the Train, no Messenger will be needed, & I now enclose orders to the Assistant-Quarter-master of Alabama at Salt-ville, to deliver the Salt to the Conductor whom you may send.

It will afford me pleasure to remit to you, immediately, on receipt of your account, for expenses, use of Train, and to forward the amount as you may direct.

Very Resp[y]
Yours,
(Signed) Jn[o] Gill Shorter, Gov[r] of Ala

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 22d, 1862

Hon. W. J. May, Judge of Probate, Guntersville.

Sir, Mr Emile Bourlier has produced to me, this day, his certificate of French citizenship, from the French Consul at Philadelphia, and your receipts to Messrs Ditto and Beard Conscript Agents, for four hundred & forty five dollars, received from them on a/c of said Bourlier. I am at a loss to understand, how, & why the Conscript officers should be in possession of this money, or how your office should be made their Depository. While the State Authorities should give every aid to the enforcement of this Confederate Law, that aid should be given only in the manner, & under the requirement of law, in those matters which lawfully pertain to their authority. Mr Bourlier's papers seem regular & formal, and establish a prima facie case of foreign Nationality & citizenship, & exemption from the Conscript act; and I respectfully advise, that you take immediate steps to turn over Mr Bourlier's money to the Conscript-Agents, & that they repay it to him.

Very Respy, Yours.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Dec 22d, 1862.

Genl Hoxter, Jr. Mr. Genl, Atlanta, Geo.

Sir; I am informed by Messrs Dickson, Nelson, Hco., of Adairsville, Georgia, that under the late act of the Georgia Legislature, a lot of leather, purchased by them in the State of Alabama, for the purpose of making belting for machinery has been seized. These Gentlemen have a large contract for the manufacture of arms for the state of Alabama, and having been driven out of North Alabama by the enemy, were afterwards, burned out at Rome, now need this leather to complete their Contract.

The importance of their Contract — apart from State Comity — would suggest the propriety of the release of this leather, & I respectfully request that you will cause it to be done at once —

Very Respectfully,
Yours
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter
Governor of
Alabama.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Dec 22d 1862,

Mr A. G. McGehee, Salt-Commissioner of Ala. State-Salt-works, Clarke Co.

Sir; I enclose you herein, printed copies of two several acts, passed by the General assembly of Alabama, & approved by me on the 9th inst: one entitled "an act to enable the people of Alabama to procure necessary supplies of Salt, at reasonable prices, & for other purposes" and the other entitled, "an act to amend an act supplemental to two several acts, in relation to Salt, approved December 9th 1861 — and the several acts to which it is supplemental, and for other purposes"

For convenience of reference, and a ready understanding of the instructions herein given, I will designate these acts by Nos 1 & 2, applied to them in the order in which they are above-named.

Under the 3d Section of act No 1, I have appointed you "Salt-Commissioner for Alabama." Having accepted this appointment, and executed the bond required, I herewith, enclose you your Commission. Your Salary is fixed, by me, at the maximum sum of $2500 per annum, as provided in the act, & will be payable on the 1st day of January next & quarterly, thereafter. By the terms of the act, The Contracts, previously made by me, for the purchase & manufacture of Salt, are ratified & confirmed; and for the services rendered by you previous to its passage, you are allowed Compensation at the rate of $2500 per annum, from the time your services commenced.

I am persuaded that so far as the public works inaugurated by you are concerned the object of the Legislature can be best promoted, by continuing them under your efficient direction: and I, therefore, have to request that, with all possible

energy, you will go on to develope a full supply of Saline Water, and erect furnaces to manufacture not less than 500 bushels of Salt per day. Further improvements can & should be made, if deemed prudential, when you shall have attained the above result. These continued operations involve the necessity of securing an adequate supply of labrers, assistants and Agents, who may be required to manage the enterprize with energy & success; and also provision Supplies for Workmen & teams. Having a due regard to occonomy in expenditures, you should, in the exercise of your discretionary powers, endeavour to secure all these ends, at the earliest possible day.

Contracts, which have been, heretofore, made by you, should be adjusted-settled-off, and the vouchers reported to the auditor of the Treasury, as soon as convenient. You will make to him a full report of all acts for expenditures & receipts, including articles purchased, negro-hire, & labor of all kinds, paid for, in Salt, up to the last day of this year-inclusive- & monthly thereafter.

I call your particular attention to Section 4, in act No 1, which directs that the Salt, manufactured- or purchased by the State, shall be sold at prices not to exceed the cost of (manufacture, or purchase, and sacking, with transportation, and other incidental expenses added, when sold at other depositories, than the works where it is manufactured. The Legislature have given us no data or Rule, by which to determine the cost of manufacture. In the absence of such a guide, I think it best to adopt the following method: Estimate the daily expenses for labor and Agents employed, & provision-supplies consumed. To this sum, add 20 pct on gross amount of Capital invested in machinery, improvements, tools, wagons, teams &c &c Divide the aggregate amount thus obtained, by the quantity of Salt made daily, & you will have the cost per bushel. To this cost, you will add the cost of barrels, or Sacking, as the case may be. By this method, you can approximate more nearly- than in any other way- in my opinion, to that Standard of price, which the Legislature contemplated. And this Standard, you will have to ascertain, & fix, at once, for it must govern all Sales made since the 9th inst: the day on which the act was approved, & became obligatory. Contracts made prior to that date, are to be close-up- and settled upon the terms agreed on- if any were expressed or understood. Another reason why you should fix the Standard of prices at once, is that it may be communicated to Consignees, who will add the expenses of transportation, & other charges, to the Cost at the Works, to determine the Selling prices at the different depositories. Your particular attention is invited- also- to the provision, in the fourth Section of the act, which directs the mode in which the Salt shall be distributed and Sold. First, It is to be furnished only to inhabitants of this State, who are restricted to a purchase for their own private use, and in quantities of not more than twenty five pounds, per Capita, "until all the people of the State are supplied" Second, In the distribution of the Salt, "due regard shall be had to the wants of Counties remote from means of public transportation." You are aware that the Counties bordering on the Alabama & Tombigbee Rivers, and upon the lines of Rail-Road communicating with these rivers, on account of greater facilities for transportation and more easy access to the Salt-Works, are now, far better supplied with Salt, than the Counties more remote from these means of transportation. It is, therefore, but humane and just- looking to the public advantage, that these remote Counties should be supplied as promptly & fully, as may be consistent with the idea of a fair and equitable distribution to those inhabitants of the State who are without an adequate supply of this essential Want: and to enable you to attain this end, you are directed not to sell any Salt at the Works, except in pursuance of Contracts, heretofore made- or which you may, hereafter make, for labor or supplies- necessary to carry-on the works, or on Special orders from this Department, which, however will not be given, except for meritorious cause. And I desire you to give notice accordingly.

As it will be impossible for you, or the Executive, to give due attention to the transportation & distribution of the Salt among the various Counties in the State, this duty I have devolved upon Duff & Green, Dr. Mr. Gen[l] of the State, at Mobile. The greater portion which you will manufacture, must, necessarily, be shipped to Mobile, in the first instance, to be forwarded from that City, and it will save you trouble, if your duties are limited to its manufacture, & shipment to Gen[l] Green, at Mobile, or up the Tombigbee River, in such quantities, & to such Consignees as he may designate. He will be furnished with full instructions on this subject

V 53

& will keep you advised; ~~& meanwhile you, however, are empowered to take such steps as may be necessary to establish, within the counties to be specified, such inspections, and the issuance of certificates as~~ you shall deem necessary. On this point, I have only to add, that you will direct & control all shipments intended to fulfill any Contract made by you, & that, beyond them, you will ship the Salt, directly, to Gen^l Green, at Mobile, or up the Tombigbee river, as he may direct; and forward the supplies by every boat, if practicable, so that they may be distributed in the interior, and among the remote Counties, as fast as possible. You will report, weekly, to this office, all shipments, or deliveries made, by you, from the State-works.

By the provisions of Act N^o 2, the terms of the lease of the Lower Salt-reservation of the State, to J. P. High, have been radically changed. He has filed his written assent thereto, and given bond, as directed in the act; and, under the directions, contained in the 2^d Section of the act, you are, hereby, authorized, as my agent, "to lay-off & set-apart, to the exclusive use & control of John P. High, so much of the lands included in his lease, as will secure him against any interference or hindrance, in the enjoyment of his lease, or in the procurement of water, adequate to the supply of any number of any number of boiling furnaces, Machinery, & other fixtures, necessary to the full enjoyment of his lease. He is, also, entitled, under this Act, to the exclusive right to all the wood upon the two Sections embracing the lower reservation.

Under this new Contract, Mr High is to deliver to the State, two fifths of all the Salt made by him, and divisions of the Salt shall be made as often as required by the Governor, and this Contract commenced on the 11th day of this Month, when he accepted the new terms proposed in the Act. The divisions-receipt- & shipment of this Salt, on a/c of the State, will require an agent for the State, resident at the works of Mr High. Until I can procure a suitable man, to take the position, I have to request that you will make the needful provision in the premises. The divisions of the Salt, I wish made, at least, twice a-week, so that the State's proportion may be sacked & shipped, by every boat passing up or down, as Gen^l Green may direct. The accounts of these divisions & shipments must be kept separate & distinct from your operations on the Upper Reservation; & reported, weekly, to this office. Both acts, N^os 1 & 2, authorize the rent or lease of all the surplus water, which may be found on each reservation. The lessees, however, will be required to furnish their own wood, and it must be obtained from other lands than the State-reservation; all the wood upon the upper reservation, having been reserved, by the acts, exclusively, for the State-works, & upon the lower reservation, for the Works of John P. High.

You will lease the use of all surplus water for one tenth of the Salt manufactured, the divisions & deliveries of the same, to be had at least twice a week. The deliveries at the upper works will be made to you, and at the lower works, to the State agent. Separate accounts of such deliveries, at each reservation, must be kept, and reported, weekly at this office. You are, also, hereby, authorized, as my proxy, to locate all persons engaged in the manufacture of Salt on the public lands, or who may lease the privilege of manufacturing Salt, and set-apart, to each manufacturer, or Company, suitable grounds, by metes & bounds, in such manner as to secure the State-works & the works of John P. High, from hindrance or inconvenience in the prosecution of their manufacture, & to prevent collision between those who may be engaged in the manufacture, for their own use. And you will observe, by the last proviso, in Section 3, of act N^o 2, that no person is, thereafter, to manufacture Salt upon the public lands, without making a Contract of lease. You will take immediate steps to advise the Public, accordingly, & to lease the surplus waters, so that the manufacture of Salt may be increased as rapidly as possible. As there are, perhaps, persons now located on the Reservations, and who had erected their improvements before the Act passed, it will be just to them, & the State, to allow them to continue their operations, on their entering into Contract of lease, as required by the law; provided, they yield to such alterations or change of locality, if necessary, which you may determine to be proper & requisite to carry-out the purposes of the law.

I will not anticipate that any citizen of the State can so far forget his duty, as to oppose, or resist any action you may take, in executing the law; but, to provide against any such Contingency, I enclose you herein, authority to use the Military power, if it should be necessary to resort to its use, in order to enforce the law, and maintain the authority of the State.

It may become necessary to erect a Store-room, at the lower reservation, for the storage of Sacks & Salt, delivered to the State; & if so, you will have it constructed. And, with the copies of the acts before you, under the appointment you hold, as the "Salt Commissioner, for Alabama", & under the delegation of authority herein con-

ferred upon you, by the Executive, as his Agent or Proxy, & you will proceed in the vigorous & just execution of the Law: and, in all cases, not specifically mentioned herein, use your best judgment, and enlightened discretion, with a view of accomplishing the laudable ends, contemplated by the Legislature.

Applications are, constantly, being made to me, for permission to ship, beyond the State, quantities of Salt purchased of Manufacturers, at the Works. The Legislature of 1861 prohibited such Sales & Shipments; and I have abundant evidence that this Law has been openly & wilfully violated by Speculators and extortioners, at the Works. I caused, as you are aware, copies of the Law to be printed in handbills, and to be posted at all the Works, some months since. The parties who have violated the Law, cannot plead ignorance of its provisions. You are directed to look to this matter, and gather & preserve, for the consideration of the Grand Jury of Clarke Co. all evidence which you may discover against parties, who have been - or may be engaged in this unlawful traffic. And to further inform the people who may flock to the Salt-works, I have again ordered the Law to be printed, & enclose you a number of copies, which you will cause, again, to be posted at all the Salt-works, in Clarke and Washington Counties.

There is another important matter to which I will call your attention. Section 5th of Act. No 2. directs that the Salt received from John D. Figh, & all other Lessees, shall be distributed to the Counties, in proportion to population, & that the Salt for each County shall be placed under the control of the County Commissioners, for distribution by them, as directed in said Section. You will observe that this provision is distinct, and totally different from the one, by which the Salt made at the State-Works, under your charge, is to be distributed. Therefore, you cannot sell or barter away any Salt received from the Lessees; nor can the State-Agent dispose of it except under the directions of the County Commissioners. As the accounts for this Salt must be kept distinct, and the Shipments made for distribution, by a peculiar rule, it becomes necessary to distinguish the Sacks or Barrels, containing it, by a different Mark or brand, from the one used by you at the State-Works. I recommend, therefore, that you have the Sacks - or Barrels, containing the Salt, received from all Lessees, marked or branded "County Commissioners". While you adopt the mark or brand - "Alabama" for all the Salt manufactured by the State-Works. With a little care & attention, this matter may be so managed, as to prevent confusion, & facilitate Shipments.

Wishing you continued good health, & abundant success, I am

Your obedient Servant.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive Department,

Montgomery, Ala. Dec 22d, 1862.

Col. S. P. Moore, Surgeon Gen., C. S. A. Richmond.

Sir; I would, most respectfully, request that, if consistent with the regulations & practice of your Department, you would place all the Hospitals, for the accommodation of Alabama Soldiers, in Richmond, under the general charge & direction of Surgeon C. D. Clarke, who has been, for the past year, in charge of the Alabama Hospital, superintended by Mrs Hopkins. Dr Clarke enjoys the full confidence of the People, as well as the Executive of Alabama, and has given every satisfaction, in the discharge of his duties.

The Legislature has continued its appropriation for the Hospitals, and Hon. A. F. Hopkins is the general Agent.

By the arrangement I suggest, the distribution of the general appropriation, and of private donations of supplies from the State, would be equitably distributed, according to the intentions of the donors.

Very Respectfully,

Your Obt Servt.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Another appeal to the Women of Alabama.

Executive Department of Alabama,
Montgomery Dec^r 6th 1862.

The troops of this State, who are bravely defending your liberties, in the mountains of Virginia & Tennessee, are suffering for blankets. The Confederate is unable to supply them, in sufficient quantity I must, again appeal to the women of Alabama, who have, so well sustained their part in the Revolution, to give up their Carpets - their remaining blankets - and such other suitable bed-clothing, as they can spare to the cause of independence. A ready response to this appeal is certain to increase the efficiency of our troops, and alleviate their sufferings. It may save the lives of Thousands. The articles contributed should be sent to Duff C. Green, 2^d M^r Gen^l, Mobile; George G. Lyon Esq; Demopolis; H. G. Johnson No. Selma; W. R. Pickett. A. Q. M. Montgomery; and Robert W. Coltart, Huntsville; or to the Judges of Probate of Counties, who will forward them as as above, at the expense of the State.

(signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter. Gov^r of Alabama.

Alabama State-Bonds for Sale.

Executive Department.
Montgomery Ala. Dec^r 11th, 1862.

Under, & by virtue of an act of the late Session of the General Assembly, I offer for sale Bonds of the State of Alabama, bearing Six per cent interest, to the amount of $1.000.000 having twenty years to run - from January 1st, 1863, renewable at the pleasure of the State, with Interest-Coupons attached, payable on the first of March next, & annually there after, at the State-Treasurery, where the principal sum, also, is redeemable. These Bonds are exempted from taxation, and the Coupons are receivable in payment of all public dues to the State. No bid will be accepted at less than par Value, in Confederate Currency, nor for less than One Thousand Dollars, as the Bonds will be issued in sums for that Amount. The several bids must be sent, under seal, to this Department, and indorsed "Bid for Alabama Bonds." They will be received & filed, until the first day of January next, on which day they will be opened. The Bonds will be ready for delivery on that day & parties whose bids may be accepted, will be required to pay the Money into the State-Treasury, by the 10th day of January next.

(Signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. Dec^r 24th, 1862.

Hon: Levi. W. Sawler, Alpine, Talladega Co. Ala.

Dear Sir; I have to acknowledge the receipt of yours, of the 20th inst. enclosing the letter of several gentlemen of Talladega Co. who have been called-upon to furnish Slave-Labor under the late impressment act, suggesting that not more than ten dollars a month, should be paid for Slaves taken under the act referred-to. I appreciate fully the force of the suggestion, and regret that every Slave-holder in the State is not influenced by the same elevated & patriotic motives, as the gentlemen who have addressed me.

I would state, however, that the Slaves whose labor has been furnished, on the Mobile- & Bay defenses, was supplied upon the requisition of the Confederate authorities at that point, to be used for the Common defense, that it would be paid-for, out of the Common Treasury. I do not mention this, as having any direct bearing on the question, as no higher charge should be made against the Confederacy for labor, than is proper to be made against the State.

I am inclined to think with you, that the rates are too high, but it is now too late to change them; and, indeed, no reduction could now be made, without a discrimination, which would produce great dissatisfaction. It could be done - only by a voluntary relinquishment, on part of the Slave-holders.

It is proper to mention, that the rates allowed by myself, were based upon the rates offered by the Confederate Authorities, upon the requisition made upon me, on the 23^d of Oct^r last, under the proclamation, which I now enclose, and upon which, I am sorry to say, I was unable to obtain one third of the number of hands called for. After making this offer, & obtaining some two hundred hands under it, I deemed it impolitick to reduce the rates, fearing that dissatisfaction would ensue; which might in obstruction and delays. Time could not be spared of

more importance than money. To complete defenses which would render mobile impregnable, a week sooner, I would have given two dollars a day. Strange to say, that even, at the rates fixed, I find many who are unwilling to send their slaves, with the knowledge that the labor is absolutely essential to the protection of their property, but also to the preservation of every thing which should be near & dear to them.

I am gratified to have it in my power to inform you, that our advices from Mobile are in a tone of greatly increased confidence; and it is not probable that the slaves, at that place, will be required longer than a few weeks. Every day and hour, however, is precious, and every slave which can be worked to advantage, should be sent forward at the very earliest day; a few months of labor & energy — & I trust every thing will be well; to be followed, it may be, by long years of peace — prosperity — & independence.

Thanking yourself, & the other Gentlemen, for their suggestion, and the liberality on part of the Slave-holders of Talladega, I am,

Very Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala

Executive Department.
Montgomery Ala. Dec 25th 1862.

Gen. L. B. Northrup, Commissary Gen'l C. S. A. Richmond.

Sir; in reply to your communication of the 19th inst, I have the pleasure to inform you that, realizing the importance of manufacturing Salt, upon an extensive scale, by Solar evaporation, I will, cheerfully, meet your views, so far as it may be in my power to do so. When Prof. Thomasey revisits our Salt lands, and makes the requisite survey, I will protect him in the uninterrupted enjoyment of such location as we may agree upon, and the operations shall proceed, for the Confederate Government, as contemplated by you. My action in the premises, however, will be subject to the approval of the State Legislature, whenever it re-assembles. I think there is no doubt that it will ratify any arrangement we may make in the premises.

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) John Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 25th. 1861

Hon. John A. Seddon, Secretary of War. Richmond.

Sir; I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of of your letter of 17th inst: in relation to the establishment of Salt-works, by the Confederate government, within the limits of this State. Had our State Legislature been fully advised, as to the extent & importance of the works contemplated, I doubt not they would have readily shaped the bill, so as to have secured the results desired by you. I will not, however, suffer the enterprise to fail or become embarrassed, for want of area for evaporating fields. When the location shall have been surveyed, I hope to be able to guarantee Professor Thomasey in the uninterrupted enjoyment of all the ground he may need; and the works can proceed, with strong confidence, that the State Legislature, at its next Session, will fully ratify & confirm whatever we may do in the premises. I think that, on this point, You need entertain no doubts. With high esteem, I am,

Your Obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala

Proclamation, by the Governor of Alabama.

Executive Department. Montgomery, Ala. Dec 8th 1862

Publication of the annexed Act, entitled "an act to prohibit the distillation of grain, in the State of Alabama, except under the direction, & authority of the Governor," is made to give notice of its contents, & of its approval, on this day. So soon as the Executive shall determine the conditions, & terms of distillation, & the proper safeguards, which should be provided, they will, they will be announced through the papers of the State. In testimony whereof, I have have, hereunto set my hand, & caused the great Seal of the State to be affixed, at Montgomery, this 8th day of December, A. D. 1862, and the second year of the Independence of the Confederate States of America. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Governor of Ala.

By the Governor: (Signed) A. M. Brittain, Sec'y of State.

Executive Department.

Col. Wm. H. Chambers, Eufaula, Ala.

Montgomery, Dec^r 29th 1862.

Col. Wm. H. Chambers, Eufaula, Ala.

Sir: I avail myself of the first opportunity to reply to your letter of 22^d inst. I have been painfully aware of the unfortunate condition of things, on the Florida Coast, for sometime, & on the 4th day of November prepared a letter to the President, of which, I enclose you, herewith, a copy. I sent it to Gov^r Brown, who informed me, he signed & forwarded it to Gov^r Milton. I have not heard from it since. When the President was here on his way to Mississippi, I called his attention to this matter, and he informed me that Gen^l Cobb's command crossed the Chattahoochie & Apalachicola rivers, & extended to the Choctawhatchie river, & that, if I would apply to Gen^l Cobb, he presumed Gen^l Cobb would send a force on the Coast. Some ten days since, I furnished Capt^n Clendennin, with a copy of the enclosed letter, & sent him to Richmond, to see the Sec^y of War, in person, & try to have something done. I am embarrassed by the seeming conflict, according to your information, as to the extent of Gen^l Cobb's command. I shall know the facts, I hope, in a few days. I cannot call for troops, for State-service, within the Conscript age. So far, Alabama has shown a generous confidence in the Confederate authorities, and she will continue to do so to the end, as interest & duty, both dictate. I am satisfied the Confederate authorities are doing, every thing, in their power, for the Cause, & we must not hinder or embarrass their power of concentration, when the great battles are to be fought, even if we have to meet personal, & local disasters to accomplish this result. I approve your suggestion, fully, as to a Corps of Mounted Riflemen; & if we cannot get them under Confederate Authority, I will accept such an organization, for State-service, under the enclosed Proclamation. In such event, the men must furnish their own arms & Equipments. But it is far better to have the men in Confederate service, for a State Company could not go beyond the State, & would not be efficient as a Confederate Company. I am now waiting the return of Capt^n Clendenning, & the information expected by him; & then, it is my purpose to forward instructions to Col. Eli S. Shorter - my aid at Eufaula, to visit Gen^l Cobb's head-Quarters, & confer, fully, with him, on the subjects herein mentioned.

Very Resp'y & truly, yours.

(signed) Jn^o Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department

Montgomery, Ala. Dec^r 29th, 1862

Dr S. Wolff, Mobile,

Sir: By yesterday's Mail, I received your letter of 26th Inst. accompanied with an application to the Executive, signed by many citizens of Mobile, asking a suspension of the "Act to prevent extortion," "at least so far as the city of Mobile was concerned."

The authority to suspend the Act is contained in the Proviso annexed to the Seventh Section of the Act, which reads thus; Provided the Governor, by his Proclamation, may suspend the operation of this act, as to all or any portion of the articles hereinafter set-forth, whenever he thinks the interests of the people of the State demand it." You will see that the power to suspend is limited to "the articles" enumerated, & therefore cannot be extended to any particular class of persons, or to any particular locality. The Law, being general in its terms, operates all over the State, & cannot be modified, by Executive Proclamation, in one locality, without embracing any other. For this reason, I cannot suspend the provisions of the Act, "so far as Mobile is concerned", without suspending it entirely, & all over the State. This, I am not prepared to do at present, in view of the oppression practiced by extortioners, upon the suffering multitudes of our people, as well as upon both State and Confederate Governments. Public opinion as well as the true interests of the country demanded some action by the General Assembly, to arrest the Monstrous Sin of Extortion, which is doing so much Mischief to our cause. The Bill passed was far from being satisfactory to me; but, as I saw, plainly, that, if it failed, Nothing would be done, and as it contained the Proviso, authorizing the Executive to suspend it in whole or in part, I reluctantly signed it. On the 20th Inst. I issued a Proclamation suspending the Act, as to all goods, wares, or Merchandize mentioned in it, except the articles enumerated in the proclamation. It is believed, that

the limitation of the act to these, will accomplish more public advantage, than by enlarging its operation, or by suspending it altogether. The Proclamation referred to is enclosed herein, & has been forwarded, for publication in the Papers, printed in your city."

With much respect, I am,
Your ob't Serv't
(Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec^r 29th, 1862.

Mrs Ellen Walker, Pres't Military aid Society, Mobile

Madam; I have the honor to acknowledge receipt, by yesterday's mail, of the communication of yourself & other ladies dated 25th inst. in relation to the appropriation made by the General assembly, at its recent session, in aid of the "Military-aid Society" of Mobile. I observed the peculiar phraseology of the Bill when it was presented for my approval, & regretted to see it, & to find the amount of the appropriation had been cut-down below that of the previous Session. In construing the act, however, all its parts must be taken together, & viewed as a whole. By this legal rule of interpretation, the act disclosed the laudable purpose of the General Assembly, to provide for the sick & suffering Soldiers of Alabama, in all the Departments of the Confederate Army; & the enumeration of particular organizations, was made, because to them was committed the expenditure of disbursement of the amounts specified as appropriations for the stated localities. In this view it makes no difference to what Regiment or Army-corps the Soldier belongs, if he be an Alabamian, if he is found in any locality, & within the reach of any named organization, he should be welcomed to its accommodations, & duly cared-for."

"As to the extension of the States' benefactions to Soldiers from other States, I have to say— with a grateful appreciation of the tender solicitude, and generous hospitalities accorded to Alabamians in Virginia & other States, by their Citizens, who are embarked with us in a common cause,— that, like the Mother, who first watches after the welfare of her own children, Alabama anxiously regards her own patriotic sons, who are exposed to the fortunes of War; but then, this duty performed, she has not the heart to close her portals against the sick & wounded Soldiers from her Sister Confederate States. To do this would be to do violence to that holy instinct of humanity, which has directed the noble charities of our women, all over the Confederacy. The operations of the "Military aid Society" of Mobile have been, most usefully conducted on this broad & high principle. Its reports have been presented with appropriate vouchers examined and approved, I am sure that the General assembly did not intend to embarrass its plans, or limit its benevolent work. The amount appropriated to it will be duly advanced when called for; & I may, in behalf of the Gen^l assembly, assure you, that the disbursements of it by your Society, in furtherance of your humane plans, will be cordially approved.

With my sincere thanks to the Society, for its past achievements, and fervent desire for its continued usefulness, I have the honor to remain.

Your friend & obt Serv't
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec^r 30th 1862.

Hon. W. P. Chilton, Montgomery,

Sir; As the Representative, in the Confederate Congress, from the Capitol District of the State of Alabama, I beg to hand you, herewith, a certified record of the papers relating to the seizure of the Steamer Florida, by the Governor of Alabama, on the 16th day of July, 1861, and the evidence of the payment, of the sum of $90.000, by the State of Alabama, to the owners of the Vessel. The Vessel

was turned over to the Navy Department of the Confederate Government, was converted into a Gun Boat, and is now employed in that Capacity, by the Government. The facts constitute a just claim in favour of the State against the Confederacy & I think, it will be necessary only to present the record, to induce the Congress, at its next session, to direct that the State be re-imbursed out of the Confederate Treasury.

I beg, also, to call your attention to the fact, of the payment made by the State of Alabama, of $2.000.000, assumed by the State, & paid before the assessments, in the State had been completed. It is now believed that this amount will considerably exceed the Assessment when completed. I have to request that you endeavour to procure the passage of a Bill, authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to refund to the State, such amount as may have been over-paid, and also the ten pr-Ct, reduction, for advance payment, by the State.

Should any further information be required as to the subjects of this communication, I will promptly furnish it.

Very respy, Yr obt Servt
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Decr 31st 1862.

D. Hamilton, Esq; Chairman Executive Committee, Mobile.

Sir; Mr Wingard duly presented your letter of introduction, and explained to me the plan of his "mounted-Rifle Gun." I saw the drawings, & the newspaper recommendations & certificates of its efficiency, last summer, as the parties having them, called & exhibited them to me—they being en route for Richmond. I was much interested in the enterprize then, & hoped that the War-Department at Richmond would undertake a practical test of its efficiency. Nothing, however, it seems, was done; and now, Mr Wingard proposes that I should have the gun tried. I invited him to submit me some tangible proposition; which he did & I now, enclose it to you, to be submitted to the Committee of Safety, for their consideration. My limited experience in Military Ordnance does not enable me to determine the value of Mr Wingard's invention, nor do I know when all the material & workmen are to be obtained for the construction of one or more of the Guns, within any reasonable time. I shall be pleased to have you report the proposition of Mr Wingard to the Committee, & for them to examine, by the assistance of experienced Ordnance officers, into the usefulness of this invention—the fairness of the terms offered, and, also, into the feasibility of constructing the guns, in the course of a few weeks or Months.

Respy, Yr obt Servt.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Unofficial

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala, Decr 30th 1862

Govr D. L. Swain, Chapel Hill. N. Ca.

Sir; I had the pleasure, on yesterday, of receiving a visit from your son, Dr R. L. Swain, Asst Surgeon of the 39th N. Ca Regiment, on his way to Jacksonville Mississippi, from Shelbyville, Tennessee. Being a little short of funds, he applied to me, for a temporary loan, which I advanced him, feeling gratified that it was in my power to accommodate him. He asked only seventy five dollars, and gave me the enclosed check with a request that I send it to you. Please remit me, by Mail, in a check on this City, or Mobile, or Columbus, Geo: or if you cannot obtain a check, send Confederate Treasury-Notes—say, a $50—a $20—& a $5.—

With much respect,

Yours, Yr obt Servt.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery Ala. Dec^r 31st, 1862.

Brigadier Gen. J. C. Winder, Richmond, Va.

Sir; I am in rec^t of yours of 26th inst. enclosing a memorandum of names of deceased Soldiers from Alabama, who died in & around Pachmond & leaving effects — for which I am much obliged. In order to give the information to the legal representatives of the deceased parties, I will publish the memorandum, in several of the News papers of this State.

Very respectfully, Your obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 31st, 1862

Maj. Gen^l Buckner, Commanding Gulf District, Mobile.

General, I enclose you copy of dispatch, received this morning from Gov Milton. The portion of South-Alabama he refers to, is comprized in the Counties of Dale, and Coffee; the first containing upwards of ten thousand white — and eighteen hundred Slave population; & the last, about eight thousand whites and 1400 Slaves. There are large stocks of cattle in these Counties, & the Corn-crops, this year, have been abundant. On the Coast of W. Florida, there are several companies, from this State, engaged in Salt-making; and on one of the Shoal-inlets, making up from that part of St. Andrew's Bay, known on the Map as "East-Bay" thirty gallons of the Water, makes a bushel of Salt — Stronger than any water — except the Virginia.

Col. Clanton has authority to raise a Regiment^t of Cavalry Rangers — not subject to Conscription — for six months, to give protection to this section of Country, and as he is a bold-dashing & indefatigable officer, I have but little doubt of his being able to afford it from the time he gets his Regiment organized. In the mean time, however, if nothing is done, it will result — as Gov^r Milton says — in the virtual subjugation of the portion of Alabama & Florida to which his dispatch refers. Not that the people are wanting in Patriotism, or would not resist the Enemy, if there were any hope that they could do so successfully, but the trouble is, the Country is drained of its men the Exemption Act has not been without its pernicious influences; and I do not believe that there is, at this time twenty five pounds of powder, in the two Counties. Under the operation of these causes, and the inducements which will be held out, I shall be agreeably disappointed, if a large portion of them do not consent to save their little property, by giving in their adherence to the Enemy. As I wrote you, in my last, the State has one Cavalry Company, & Col. Clanton had been sent down to raise what men he could. If to this force, two Cavalry Companies, & a Section of artillery were added, I should have no doubt as to the result, and the effect would be salutary in giving confidence to the people of that Section, and preventing raids of this description, for some time — probably, until Col. Clanton could raise his Regiment. Col. Shannon has five or six Companies here, and the State can arm, for this Service, two or three of them. The distance from Elba to this point is **about 100 miles**, and the roads good, so that they could reach there in three days. If the object of the raid is Cotton, — as I presume it is — it will take some time to haul it, and by a prompt movement from Pollard in the direction of Gentsville., & thence, across to Evergreen, they might possibly, be intercepted & cut-off. If nothing is done, I am persuaded that the effect upon that portion of the State will be most unhappy — both as to the white & slave population, many of the latter having already escaped to the enemy. There are, now hundreds of deserters in that region, many of them from your army, and the number will increase. Unless protection is given them, there is great danger of wholesale disaffection; and all this, I believe, can be prevented by immediate action; and the Service can be performed in a few weeks — at the most.

Very Respt'y, Your obt Ser't
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec^r 10th, 1862.

Gen^l M. P. Watson, Montgomery,

Sir; The General assembly have adjourned, without electing an Adjutant and Inspector Gen^l of the State Militia organization. It now devolves upon the Executive, to fill the vacancy, by appointment. Having accepted the appointment & having discharged the duties of the office, for the past year, with great advantage to the state, I embrace this occasion, to return you my sincere thanks, & to acknowledge the deep obligations I have been placed under, by your efficient aid and support, through a year of great peril & anxiety, and to earnestly request your acceptance of the enclosed Commission, continuing you in the position of Adjutant & Inspector Gen^l of the State.

With high personal regards, I am your friend, & ob^t Serv^t.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, G. & Comm^r in chief

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Dec^r 31st 1862.

Col. J. C. B. Mitchell, Head-Quarters, 34th, Ala. Reg^t, Murfreesboro' Tennessee.

Sir; Your letter of 27th inst: accompanying reports of the needy condition of the families of a number of the gallant men, under your command, reached me to-day, & I hasten to reply, in person, to your letter. I assure, you, Col., that I, duly, appreciate the anxiety felt by the soldier, in behalf of his family at home; and beg you to notify your command, that I will do every thing possible, within the power of the Executive, to secure protection & support to the families of our soldiers. The amount appropriated for this purpose, by the Legislature of Alabama, at its session in 1861, fell something short of two hundred thousand dollars; and was far from being sufficient for their maintenance; but the Legislature, at its recent session, appropriated two millions of dollars, for the support & maintenance of soldiers' families, for the next year; & it is hoped & believed that this munificent provision, properly distributed, will meet the wants of every family. The Money is to be paid to the Judges of Probate of every County, divided out, in proportion, to each county requiring assistance, & the Judges of Probate are to distribute the money, or buy & distribute provisions & clothing, as may be needful. A half million of dollars has already been paid out, by the State Treasurer, to the Probate Judges, during this present month of December, and is, now, being distributed, by the Judges, in every County, for the benefit of soldiers' families; and I hope when your command hears from home again, they will learn that their loved-ones are not suffering, but are being duly provided for. I give you the rateable amounts, paid out this month to the Counties mentioned in the papers sent me. There have been paid to Barbour $9.000, to Russell, $10.000, to Macon, $7.500, to Talla poosa, $15.000, to Chambers $8.000, to Montgomery, $14.000, to Coosa, $10.500, & to Randolph, $18.000. During the coming Month, another half million of dollars will be distributed, & upon a fuller return of the number of families now being made, to the State Comptroller. There will be another half million divided at the end of three months, and the balance when needed thereafter. Thus you will see that while our brave soldiers are far away from their homes, their beloved State of Alabama, proud of their achievements, which have shed imperishable honor upon her name, is looking, with parental solicitude to the welfare of their families. From returns made to the Executive office, I am satisfied, that there is an abundant supply of provisions raised in the State; & altho' the crops, in some counties, were seriously injured by drought, last summer, yet the deficiencies can be supplied from other Counties, where it is, now, being purchased, by the County Agents, sent for that purpose. Our great est want, is salt. This necessary article is needed by every County, & it is impossible to obtain it, in sufficient quantities to meet the usual demand. But the arrangements, now on foot, will help very much, to relieve the wants of soldiers' families, and, I hope, to furnish them, before long, salt, at $2.50 pr bushell, delivered, in every county, to the Probate Judges, for distribution, at this price. I will forward, immediately, to the Probate Judges of the proper Counties, the lists of families which you have enclosed me, & will instruct that those families be promptly furnished for. I hope, Col. you will, as far as convenient, make known

the contents of this letter to the soldiers, whose names are reported to me, that they may know what Alabama is trying to do, for the protection & support of their families, & to give them assurance, that while they are fighting their battles for the deliverance & liberty of their country, their noble State will take care of their loved ones at home.

With my best wishes &c., for the success & prosperity of your command, & with an unfaltering faith in the final triumph of our most righteous cause, I remain,

Very truly, Your friend
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Jan'y 1st. 1863

Gov. W. J. May, Guntersville, Ala.

Sir; I am in receipt of your letter without date—enclosing proceedings of a meeting at Guntersville, on the 8th of December, in relation to Salt. In reply, I have the honour to enclose you copies of the Salt acts passed by the General assembly, at its recent Session, and to call your attention to the provisions in act, N° 37, ratifying & confirming the Salt-Contracts made by me, and providing the mode by which the Salt shall be distributed. If I deemed it proper I am not at Liberty to depart from the directions of this act.

Very Respectfully, Yr obt Servt.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 3, 1863

Hon. D. Campbell, Judge of Probate, Montgomery, Ala.

Sir; I enclose you, herein, a list of families in your County, whose Representatives in the 34th Ala. Regiment, Col. Mitchell certifies are in need of the necessaries of life. It was sent to me by Col. Mitchell, who desired that I might make such a disposition of it, as would tend, most effectually, to their relief. It is hoped that, if relief has not already afforded them, that steps will be taken, at once, to supply them with the articles, for which they are represented as suffering.

Same sent to Govs. Dallas, Vance, Watts, Jarvis, Macon, & Russell.

Very Resp'y, Yr obt Servt.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. January 30 1863.

His Excellency, Jno J. Pettus, Gov of Mississippi.

Sir; In reply to your request of the 30th ult., I have the pleasure to inform you, that Mr A. G. McGehee, Salt Commissioner for Alabama, resident at the Salt-works, has been instructed, by me to protect citizens of other States, in the manufacture of Salt in Alabama, & to allow them to transport the same, beyond the State, without molestation.

Six Months since, I issued a proclamation, cordially inviting citizens of other States to our Salt-region, for the manufacture of Salt. The only conditions imposed, were, that they should manufacture for their own use, and not for re-sale, or speculation. Upon these terms, they are welcomed, encouraged to come—make their Salt, & take it home. If you have been advised, that the State has pursued any other policy, the information was incorrect.

With high regards,
I am

Your Obt Servt.

(Signed) Jno. Gill Shorter
Gov of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala: Jany 2d 1863.

Mr A. G. McGehee, Salt-Commissioner of Alabama. State-Salt-works.

Sir; Col. Wm M. Samford, of Auburn, reports to me that a negro-man, belonging to him, by name, Jeffrey, hired to the state, has died at the Salt-works; He wishes to learn the particulars of the illness of his negro. He is entitled to be fully informed. You will, therefore cause the Physician at the works to prepare, & report to me — to be furnished Col. Samford, all the facts concerning the illness & death of the Slave Jeffrey.

Resp'y, Your obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. January 3d 1863

I, John Gill Shorter, Governor of the State of Alabama, hereby, certify that Dickson, Nelson, & Co. have an unfullfilled Contract with the State of Alabama, for five thousand small arms, which they are now manufacturing at Adairsville, Georgia, & that the artizans, & workmen, whose names are given on the preceding page, are employed by said Contractors, and are necessary for the completion of their Contract.

Given under my hand, and the Seal of the State of Alabama, on this, the third day of January, 1863.

By the Governor
(Signed) P. H. Brittan, Sec'y of State

(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 3d 1863.

Hon: D. D. Avery, Nav-Iberia, Louisiana.

Sir; Col. J. T. Bradford, State-agent, whom I sent to your Salt-mine, has returned, and reported the proposition, made by you, for my acceptance, in behalf of the State of Alabama. In reply, I have the pleasure to inform you, that the proposition is accepted. Col. Bradford will return at an early to enter upon the development of the pit, and to engage, actively, in raising Salt for shipment to Alabama.

Having made satisfactory arrangements with him, you will please regard him, as the Representative of the State of Alabama, in all dealings with you, & for his fidelity, in such respects, you have my official guaranty.

Thanking you for the liberal proposition which you have made me, & for the courtesy extended to Col. Bradford, & respectfully requesting its continuance,

I am, Your Obt Serv't,
(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter, Gov'r of Alabama.

Proclamation, by the Governor of Alabama.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Dec' 20th, 1862.

Under the powers conferred upon the Executive, by the proviso contained in the seventh section of "an act to prevent extortion", approved December 9th, 1862; & for reasons deemed good & sufficient, I, John Gill Shorter, Governor of the State of Alabama, do issue this, my proclamation, declaring that the said "act to prevent extortion" is suspended, as to each and every article of Merchandize therein enumerated & contained, except Beef, Pork, Corn, & Salt, from the day of its approval, until the first day of January, 1863: & that, from & after the 1st day of Jan'y 1863, The said "act to prevent extortion" shall continue suspended until further order, as to each & every ~~article~~ of Merchandize therein enumerated & contained, except Bacon, Beef, Pork, Corn, meal, wheat, flour, salt, sugar, molasses, leather boots, shoes, hides, spun-yarns, osnaburgs, Brown-Sheetings, Shirtings & drillings, Jeans, Cassimeres, hats, & ready-made clothing, iron & steel.

In Testimony where of, I, John Gill Shorter, Governor of the State

of Alabama; have, hereunto, set my hand, & caused the great seal of the State to be affixed This, the 20th day of December, A.D. 1862. and of the Confederate States, the Second Year.

(L.S.)

(Signed) John Gill Shorter,
Gov^r of Ala.

By the Governor
(Signed) P. H. Britton, Sec^y of State.

Proclamation, by the Governor of Alabama.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Dec^r 24th, 1862

In accordance with the "act to prohibit the distillation of grain, in alabama, except under the direction & authority of the Governor," approved 8th day of December, 1862, & hereunto annexed, I. Jno Gill Shorter, Governor of the State of Alabama, by this public proclamation, give notice of the terms & conditions upon which distillation of grain will be allowed in the State of Alabama.

1. Licenses for the distillation of Whisky or Alcohol, from Grain, will be restricted to the needful supply for Medical, Chemical, & manufacturing purposes.

2. No license will be granted to any person not having a Contract with the Confederate Government, unless he, first, Contracts in writing, with the State of Alabama to deliver the whiskey or alcohol, which he may distill, to the Agent of the State, at one of the Depositories, hereinafter named.

3. The Whiskey distilled must contain, at least, forty pr.ct. of pure alcohol, & the alcohol must contain, at least eighty pr.ct. of pure alcohol. The Spirits must be delivered in good, Merchantable barrels or casks—barrels holding forty two Gallons, are preferred—. On delivery the spirits will be inspected & guaged by the State Agent, who will pay the Contract price for the same. If the Spirits fall below the standard fixed, it will be retained, & stored, at the expense of the Contractor, or paid for, at a proportionate reduction in price at the election of the State.

4. Owing to deficient supply of grain for home consumption, as reported to the Executive Office, in the Counties of Autauga, Baldwin, Bibb, Chambers, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Coosa, Covington, Jefferson, Mobile, Monroe, Randolph, Shelby, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Washington, and Winston; no grain raised—or obtained in either of those Counties, will be allowed to be distilled.

5. Deliveries will be made at the following places, to-wit: Mobile, Demopolis, Selma, Montgomery, Eufaula, Tuscaloosa, Jacksonville, Guntersville, Huntsville, & Decatur, at each of which Agents will be appointed to inspect receipt & pay for the spirits.

6. Applicants for License will be required to subscribe, in Writing, before some State officer authorized to administer affidavits, the following oath;

The State of Alabama } I ____ do solemnly swear, that if licensed
_____ County } by the Governor of the State of Alabama, to distill whisky & Alcohol, I will not violate the provisions, contained in the fifth Section of the Act, entitled "an act to prohibit the distillation of grain in Alabama, except under the direction & authority of the Governor," approved December 8th, 1862; nor the fourth provision or condition named in the proclamation of the Governor of the State of Alabama, dated Dec^r 24th, 1862. So help me God.

This oath must be signed by the applicant, & certified by the Officer administering it, and must be forwarded to the Executive Office, with the application for license.

7. Persons applying for license, will be required to sign & forward to the Executive Office, a written proposition, in the following form, to-wit:

The State of Alabama } I, hereby, propose to distill, for the State of Alabama ____ gallons of Whiskey, at ____ dollars per Gallon, and ____ Gallons of alcohol at ____ dollars, per gallon, upon the terms & conditions specified, in the Proclamation of the Governor of the State of Alabama, dated December 24th, 1862; & to deliver the same to the State agent at ____; & to deliver ____ Gallons of Whiskey, & ____ gallons of alcohol, monthly, after the expiration of thirty days, from notice of acceptance of this proposition, by the Governor

To this proposition must be annexed a guarantee signed by two or more responsible persons, in the following form, to-wit:

The State of Alabama, } We, the undersigned, hereby bind ourselves as securities of ——
——— County } whose name is affixed to the foregoing proposal, that if the same be accepted by the Governor of the State of Alabama, he, the said ——— shall faithfully perform his contract.

Witnessed by ——— Witnessed by ———

This guarantee must be signed in the presence of two witnesses, who will subscribe their names, and must be accompanied with a Certificate, by a Judge of Probate, or other satisfactory evidence, that the securities are amply sufficient, for the liability assumed by them.

8. No proposition will be accepted, which offers to distill less than one hundred barrels, or four thousand gallons, & every proposition must contain an offer to distill, at least, one bushel of as much alcohol as whiskey. The maximum price which will be allowed, for whisky at any depository, is two dollars & fifty cents per gallon; and for alcohol, four dollars & fifty cents per gallon. Bids, however, at a lower rate, will be received, until the 20th day of January, 1863, for deliveries at Mobile, Demopolis, Selma, Montgomery, & Eufaula; & until the 15th day of February, 1863, for deliveries at Tuscaloosa, Jacksonville, Guntersville, Huntsville, & Decatur; and no licenses will be granted until after these respective dates.

9. Persons having Contracts with the Confederate Government, anterior to the 8th Dec. 1862, & desiring to obtain license to distill grain in Alabama, will forward to the Executive Office, the affidavit above required, and sworn copies of their Contracts for Examination, & approval. No licenses will be granted to fill Contracts, since the 8th December, 1862, upon other- or different terms, than those specified in this Proclamation.

10. The names of the State-agents will be, duly, notified to contractors, and the Agents will advertise the Terms & Conditions, upon which they will be instructed to sell the Whiskey & Alcohol, by the time deliveries to them shall commence.

In testimony whereof I, John Gill Shorter, Governor of the State of Alabama, have, hereunto set my hand, & caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, this, the 24th day of December, A.D. 1862, and of the Independence of the Confederate States, the Second year.

By the Gov.
(Signed) P. H. Britton Sec'y of State.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter
Gov. of Alabama.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 6th 1863

Maj. Wm G. Swanson, Camp-Watts, Notasulga.

Sir: Owing to the fact of small-pox at Camp-Watts, and the disaffection existing among some of the people in the lower Counties, & the disquietude of others, on account of the recent raids of the Yankees on the Coast, I have authorised Col. J. H. Clanton, as my special aid,-de-camp, to muster-in all Volunteers, for 30 days, into the State Service, from the Counties of Pike, Barbour, Henry, Dale, & Coffee. I think you will agree with me that this is a politic movement, when you consider all the facts.

1. All Conscripts, who volunteer, & are mustered-in, will be ready, at the expiration of the time, to go to Camp-where they can't go now, & in the meantime, will be employed in useful Service, at the expense of the State. 2. Thus organized, Col. Clanton will use them to capture deserters, & other Conscripts, who may be dodging out. 3. I have written the Secretary of War asked his approval of this plan, & to allow the men to volunteer for 6 months' service, under Col. Clanton, for Coast-defense. The Country between the Apalachicola, & Choctaw-hatchie, & Yellow-water, is full of deserters, Tories, & traitors, trading with the Enemy, I am told. The Loyal men, liable to Conscription, are very loth to leave their families, at this time, at the mercy of Yankee invaders, led-on by Tories & Spies, in the Country. I have reason to believe, from a recent letter received from an Agent I sent to Richmond, that my plan will be acceptable to the War Department, and I now write you to advise you of it, & to request you, respectfully, to acquiesce in it, until the War-depart-

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296

ment has time to communicate with me, fully, on the subject.

Resp'y, Y'r obt Serv't.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department.

Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 7th, 1863.

Capt. Joseph A. Speed, Saltville, Va

Sir; I am in receipt, by yesterday's Mail, of your letters of 28th & 29th ultimo; also, of a letter from Capt. Snodgrass, of the 2^d inst., from Jonesboro', Tennessee. The train of Cars, promised me by Mr. Leuyler, did not return to Georgia, within a week of the time anticipated, & the Superintendent was then notified that the train could not be allowed to pass over the Virginia Road again, until after the 15th inst. Why this was done, I cannot understand. The burning of the bridges, however, near Bristol, will prevent the trips, for sometime, and I now fear that we will be unable to get the Georgia train, hereafter. My hope is that, by the time the bridges are repaired, the Rail-Roads may be able to hasten-up transportation, under the energetic direction of Col. Wadley, Government-agent for Transportation. The shipment for the Alabama Co. was correct. By their contract, the Company was allowed this privilege, to the extent of the family & plantation-wants of the different members of the Company. I have, heretofore, furnished you with a list of all the Agents, & their respective Counties, now enclose another, as follows.

R. B. Hyle: Gadsden; Agent for St. Clair, DeKalb, Cherokee, Calhoun, and Talladega.

S. W. Rayburn: Guntersville; Agent for Marshall and Blount.

R. D. Scott: Scottsboro'; Agent for Jackson.

Patton, Donegan, & Co: Huntsville; Agents for Madison.

Tho^s E. Tyus: Agent for Limestone. (at Athens.)

R. N. Walden: Agent for Morgan & Lawrence. (at Decatur.)

A. G. Norman: Tuscumbia; Agent for Franklin.

B. A. Karsner: Florence; Agent for Lauderdale.

I also, enclose you, herewith, a Statement of the population of the several Counties; & you will ship the Salt to the several Agents as nearly as you can do so — in proportion to the population of the Counties they represent. You will, on receipt of this letter, make-out & forward to this Office, a full report of all Salt received & shipped by you, up to Jan. 1st, showing from whom it was received, & the quantity from each Company — when it was shipped — to whom — and the quantity. You will, also, forward a similar report monthly; and, also write me, weekly, the operations of the week.

You are not a Militia officer; and are, by your Employment, as State Agent, exempt from enrollment, under the Conscript-act, so long as you fill your present office.

Resp'y, Y'r obt Serv't.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

P. S. I am surprised to hear that Mr Dickson had not arrived with the Car-load of Sacks. Inform Capt. Snodgrass, & have him to look-up the Sacks, and hurry them on.

Executive Department,

Montgomery, Ala, Jan'y 7th, 1863

Cashier of the Branch-Bank of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.

Sir; I have directed to be sent, by the Southern Express Co., this day, the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars, (10.000.$.) to your Bank, which you will please place to credit of Capt. A. Snodgrass — Agent of Transportation for the State of Alabama. Capt. S. is now at Bristol or Jonesboro', endeavouring to get Salt through, from Saltville, into North Alabama.

Please advise me of the receipt of the Cash Package, and also notify Capt. Snodgrass, under address-at Bristol, that the money is subject to his order or check. Your friendly attentions will oblige.

Y'r obt Serv't,

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 7th 1863.

Capt. A. Snodgrass, Bristol, Tenn.

Sir; Your letter of the 2d inst. from Jonesboro', reached me yesterday. I regret the interruption of our Rail-Road connections, in East Tennessee, but hope you may, nevertheless get safe through. Use all possible energy to means to do so. I will send you, by express, tomorrow ten thousand Dollars, & the money will be put to your credit, with the Branch Bank of Tennessee, at Knoxville, where you can draw on it as you may need. I will send other funds, as needed.

Resp'y Y'r Obt Ser't

P.S. Telegram of Yesterday, rec'd this a.m. (Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, ala. Jan'y 6th 1863

His Excellency, Jno Milton, Gov'r of Florida.

Sir; On receipt of your Telegram of the 30th ult; I dispatched Col. J. H. Clanton, a Special Aid, into the lower Counties, with authority to muster into the State service, for the defense of our frontier, against the incursions of Yankee marauders. I also dispatched a wrote Maj. Gen. S. B. Buckner, at Mobile, to send a force, & capture, if possible, the party who, we were informed, had attacked Geneva. He sent me, on the 2d inst., a telegram, saying, "I have started a heavy Cavalry force, with Artillery under my Chief of Staff, to intercept the party in direction of Geneva. To-day this force has probably reached Andalusia."

I enclose you, herein, an extract from a letter from Col. Clanton, addressed to me on the night of the 1st inst. from Troy, Pike Co. He expected to reach Ebba on the 2d. I have not heard any thing of him since, nor of the Cavalry force sent by Gen. Buckner. My hope is, that all our troops may effect a junction, & succeed in capturing the Enemy.

I have directed Col. Clanton to pass the line of Alabama, into Florida, if necessary to repel the Enemy, or to arrest Deserters, Tories, or Traitors from Alabama, who may have taken refuge on the Coast. In such event; I charged him to guard his Command against any interference with the Citizens of Florida, or their property, & not to do any thing which might occasion offense against the Sovereignty of a sister State.

These instructions I deem it proper to communicate to you, and, respectfully to ask your approval of them. I am, to-day, preparing a letter to the Sec'y of War, asking authority for Col. Clanton to muster-in all Volunteers from the lower Counties, within the Conscript age, into a Partizan Company, for six months' service on the Coast. If this is allowed, I believe, we can effectually protect the Country. If you approve, I shall be happy to have your assistance in achieving this desirable result.

Respectfully, Your Obt Ser't

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov'r of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. January 8th, 1863.

Maj. Wm S. Swanson, Head Quarters, Camp. Watts.

Sir; In reply to your letter of yesterday, I have to inform you, that, early last Summer a Volunteer Company was formed, of Citizens over thirty five years of age, in accordance with my Proclamation of the 12th day of May, & assumed the name of "Eufaula Minute-Men," & elected Mr John Hardy, Captain. They tendered their services to the State, and were accepted, & ordered to hold themselves in readiness for immediate orders. The men were not liable to Conscription, as I understood it, at the time of their organization, & I do not now suppose, that half the Company are under forty years of age. I enclose you a copy of orders, sent Capt. Hardy on the day of Nov'r last. The immediate occasion of this order, was to guard the Slaves sent down into the lower Chattahoochee, or Apalachicola river, to build obstructions, & fortifications, under the directions of a Confederate Engineer. They reported to Gen'l Cobb's command. The Owners of the Slaves of the Slaves, feared that their Slaves might escape to the Yankees, on the Coast, and applied for a Military Guard, & I ordered Capt. Hardy to furnish it from his Company. They have been engaged in a useful work, & while their services are thus needed, & should be kept employed.

I have just received a letter from a Special agent to Richmond, who informs me that the Secretary of War would grant my application to raise Companies in

the Lower Counties, for special & local defense. The condition of things below, requires it, & I shall order the Company of Capt. Hardy into active service, reporting to Col. Clanton.

Very Resp'y, Yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

P.S. Mr Petty, the enrolling officer at Clayton, is well known to me, he is a very clever gentleman, but I am sure he is mistaken in saying, that all of Capt Hardy's Company are Conscripts. The material in this Company forbids the idea, that they should dodge or willfully evade the service; and those who may be liable, will go into the Confederate service at once, when discharged by the State from special service. I will see to that, as the Roll of the Company is filed in the Adjutant Gen'l's office.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala, Dec^r 25th 1862.

Hon:- - - -

Probate-Judge of- - - - - - - - County:

Sir: I have caused to be published, in pamphlet form, Acts No. 37. 38, & 39, in relation to salt, passed at the recent Session of the General Assembly, & have mailed, to your address, a copy of the same.

The shipment of Salt, under the provisions of these Acts, has been committed to Gen^l D. C. Green, Quarter-Master General of Alabama, at Mobile. He will appoint the necessary Agents, in localities where needed, and give them proper instructions as to the Sale & distribution of Salt; and all further correspondence on this Subject will be directed by you, to his office.

Your special attention is called to the Fifth Section of Act No 38. The proportionate supply of Salt for your County, under that Act, will be shipped to you, & designated by the mark or brand "County-Commissioners." You will convene the Court of County-Commissioners, for your County, at the earliest possible day, & have the Court fix upon & determine the best plan of Sale & distribution, as directed in the 5th Section of the Act.

The General Assembly hoped, by this provision, to supply the families of our brave Soldiers upon reasonable terms; and have imposed upon me the duty of fixing such a price, as I may deem "just & fair". after due consideration, I have directed the Quarter-master General to fix the price at $. 2.50 per bushel of fifty pounds, delivered in every County in the State. The State will pay transportation, and all cost & charges, until the Salt is delivered, in bulk to the respective counties. The families of Soldiers, without discrimination, and to the Counties where they reside, will thus be supplied at the same uniform price

The funds received from the Sales of the Salt will be accounted for to the Quarter-master General, to whom reports will likewise be made as he may direct.

Resp'y, Yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Jan'y 9th, 1863.

Mr James M. B. Roach, Dallas Co, Alabama,

Sir: You are, hereby appointed Agent, of the State of Alabama, under an "Act to provide for the discovery of Lead in Alabama", approved, Dec^r 2^d 1862, to examine the Mineral regions of the State, for the purpose of ascertaining Lead deposits. You will, immediately enter upon this duty, & report progress to this department, at such times as you may deem expedient - not less than Monthly.

Respectfully,
Your obt Serv^t,

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,
Gov^r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 9th 1863.

Col. R. Jemison, jr. Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Sir; I am in receipt of your favour of 2d inst. for which accept my thanks. I do not remember that I issued an order for the return of the two Stills- seized in your County, last year; and I do not think I did; I have to request you to ascertain of the Sheriff, the authority on which he returned them. I was disappointed that the Legislature did not arm me with positive authority to seize any Still which might be run, in violation of the Law. The penalty, however, imposed by the act is severe, the fine being "not less than five hundred dollars- nor more than twenty thousand dollars". I think it will be well to employ some competent reliable man to go over Tuscaloosa & adjoining Counties, as an Agent for the State, to hunt-up the evidences of a violation of the law, & to make affidavits before Justices of the Peace, & have the violators arrested, & put in jail, or bound over to court, to answer for their crimes. As the lowest fine is $.500, the Justices would not be authorised to admit to bail on a Bond for less amount. If these men can be arrested on proof, & dealt with according to the Law, it will have a happy effect. The Solicitor of the Circuit should give his assistance in this matter. I send you several copies of the Proclamation, & the Act to be exhibited to the Justices of the Peace, if need-be. Should you, upon consideration, deem it best to proceed to seize the Stills, under Gen'l Order, No 4. I authorize, & request you, as Special Aid-de-camp, to order it done. The evil must be put down, & men taught obedience to Law.

Very truly, Yours.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov'r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 9th, 1863

Mr Wm J. Glass, Pollard;

Sir; I am, to-day, in receipt of your letter of 7th inst; complaining of your illegal arrest by the Military authorities of the Confederate States. As the State authorities have not power to interpose in the matter, further than to insist upon a fair examination into your case, & upon the administration of Law, according to the requirements of the Military regulations, I have, to-day, enclosed your letter to Maj'r Gen'l S. B. Buckner, commanding the Department of Mobile, for his attention.

Respectfully Yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov'r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 10th 1863.

His Excellency, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States.

Sir; The Enemy, recently, came, in considerable force, up the Choctaw Hatchie river, and made a raid into Coffee County, Ala. He recently dispersed a Company of Alabamians, from that Section of the State, engaged in the manufacture of Salt on the Gulf, & destroyed most of their implements. The South- Eastern part of this State- including the locality of the Enemy's late operations, is peculiarly exposed, & liable to hostile incursions from Pensacola. When informed of the recent raid, I appointed Lieut. James M. Clanton- a gallant- experienced- & efficient officer- my Special aid-de-camp & dispatched him in that direction, with instructions to raise- & muster into the service of the State, for thirty days, a force adequate to drive-out the enemy, & protect for the present, that part of the State. I ventured, also, to order him to include, in his enlistment, men liable to Conscription, residing in Coffee, Covington, Dale, Henry, Pike, & Barbour, which comprise the South- Eastern angle of the State. That order was made for reasons, which I proceed to state. By including those within the age of Conscription, I could greatly hasten the formation of the Corps, & the emergency seemed to admit of no delay. Furthermore, it seemed to me, after the most careful reflection, the most effective- if not the only means of securing an execution of the Conscript Law, in that region. Reluctance to leave their unprotected families, while there is an immediate prospect of invasion, is an excuse of some speciousness, which they make, and accompany it with a profession of readiness to take-up arms for the purpose of local defense. While some of them are disloyal, many of the men on account of their unprotected families, have availed themselves of the facilities, which

.31(1)

their territory—generally poor, & sparsely populated—affords, for escape & concealment. I have no doubt that many—perhaps most of those who are thus evading conscription, will, promptly, enlist in the State service for thirty days. At the expiration of that time, they can, by aid of the Military organization, be enrolled as conscripts, and transferred to the service of the Confederate States, if your Excellency should require. An object will, thus be accomplished, which is doubtful & difficult of attainment, by any other means. Nor will any increased delay result. The prevalence of Small-pox in the Camps of Instruction, has suspended the gathering of the conscripts, & there is no probability those whom I may enlist, would be summoned to the camps, within 30 days, even if a willing obedience to the Mandate of the Law were yielded. Convinced that the order which I gave to Col. Clanton was essential to the protection of the defenseless & exposed section, and would operate as a valuable aid, in the enforcement of the Conscription, I ventured to give it. The subject could not be made intelligible through the Telegraph, and the emergency would not allow of the delay necessary to exchange communications by letter. I, therefore, took the step, confidently believing, that its obvious propriety & utility—no less to the Confederate States than to Alabama, would secure your approval, & vindicate my motives.

Col. James H. Clanton has authority from the War-Department, to raise, for six Months' service, a Regiment of Cavalry, to be composed of men not subject to conscription, and to be employed "in the defense of the Coast of Alabama, & Florida West of the Apalachicola river". He is progressing very slowly, in the formation of the Regiment. In view of the exposed & undefended condition of the section indicated, and of the necessity for a speedy organization of an effective force, and of the ability of Col. Clanton, & his peculiar fitness for such service, I respectfully ask Your Excellency to permit him to enlist, in his Corps, men subject to Conscription, within the Counties, above described, (Coffee, Covington, Dale, Henry, Pike, & Barbour). One of the most serious impediments to the formation of Col. Clanton's Regiment, is, that his authority does not allow him to enlist Companies—nor any number less than a Regiment. I trust that the order will be so modified, as to allow him to enlist, by Companies, or even smaller Squads. The prohibition of the enlistment of less than a Regiment, is so obviously productive of delay, embarrassment & difficulty, that I need make no comments upon the subject. Without the authority to enlist men of Conscript age—and to enlist in smaller numbers, I do not believe Col. Clanton's Regiment can be raised, without very great delay, if at all. I regard the speedy organization of the Regiment—to be under the command of Col. Clanton—as a matter of the highest importance, & I hope your Excellency will pardon me for urging a modification of his authority, to the extent above stated.

Very Respectfully, Your Obt Servt

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala.

Executive Department,

Montgomery, Ala, Jan'y 10th 1863.

Maj. Gen. S. B. Buckner; Head quarters, Mobile.

Sir; While in this City, you will remember that I mentioned, that Col. Jas H. Clanton had authority from the Secty of War, to raise a Regiment of Rangers for six months service on the Coast. The work is in progress, & I hope, in a few weeks, the troops may be ready. The effectiveness of the Command will be very largely increased by the addition of a section of Artillery, which, I think, may be obtained from Maj. Wagner's stores here. If you approve the suggestion, and can spare the guns, I will thank you to give such orders, as will ensure the Guns & Carriages being put in condition for service, & their delivery on the requisition of Col. Clanton, when he takes the field with his forces.

Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,

Govr of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. January 12th 1863.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Sec'y of War. Richmond, Va.

Sir; I enclose ryou, herein, the affidavit of Daniel Wallis asking an extension of time, to J. N. Baker, and D. D. Morris, who were detailed, in October last, for his Arms-Manufactory, in Talladega County, in this State. I would add, that Mr Wallis has a contract with the State of Alabama, for a thousand Rifles. I would be pleased if you would extend the term of Messrs Baker & Morris, as desired by Mr Wallis

Very respectfully, Your obedient servant
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Gov'r of Ala.

Executive Department;
(Montgomery) Ala. January 12th 1863

Hon; W. W. Starke, Elba;

Sir; Am in receipt of your letter of the 7th inst; & enclose an order to Gen'l W. H. Cooke, as requested. Hope the good work of organization may go on, until all able to bear arms, in the lower counties — are thoroughly organized for the defense of their homes. You may expect other raids up Choctawhatchie river, & without organization, your people will suffer. They must organize for their own protection. I will aid them, in every way in my power.

Respectfully, Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 12th 1863.

Gen'l W. H. Cooke; Register, & Receiver, Elba, Ala.

Sir; You will delay the removal of the Land office, from Elba to Clayton, as directed by Gen'l J. J. Bradford, Land-Commissioner, until further notice. General Bradford is now absent from the city.

Resp'y, Yr obt Serv't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov'r of Ala.

Executive Department;
(Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y, 12th, 1863.

Proprietors, Bath Mills, Augusta Geo:

Gentlemen, I wish to be advised, at your earliest convenience, whether, or not, you can supply, for this State, a first-rate article of Bank-note paper, and if so, at what price? I shall require about 250.000 or 300.000 sheets, of such size, & at such times & place as may be specified by Mess'rs J. J. Patterson, & Co. Engravers. Please advise me, that I may make other arrangements for the paper, in the event you may be unable to furnish it.

Very Resp'y,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov'r of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 12th 1863

Gen'l D. L. Green, Ass't Com. Gen'l, Mobile, Ala.

Sir; In the distribution of Salt, under directions from this department, you will observe, that the following fourteen Counties, in North-Alabama, are omitted in the memorandum furnished you, to-wit: Franklin, Lauderdale, & Limestone, Lawrence, Morgan, Madison, Jackson, DeKalb, Marshall, Blount, Cherokee, St. Clair, Calhoun, & Talladega. The reason of this omission, is, that I have made contracts for the supply of those Counties, from Saltville, Virginia, from which I hope to furnish them, in larger quantities — and at cheaper rates, than I could do from Clarke Co. This Salt, however, being purchased, Must be sold at cost & charges, as directed in Salt-ach. No 3 — and, as Soldiers' families, in these Counties, are entitled to their proportion of Salt received from the Lessees of the State, & which is to be furnished, at the Uniform price of $2.50 in every County, I have, after due consideration, determined upon the following plan to accomplish this Equitable result. You will make out a statement of

the proportion coming to each one of these fourteen Counties, estimating upon the basis of the white population, as you have been directed to do for the other Counties, and, after you shall have made a Shipment round, to all the other Counties, retain the proportionate quantity which will will be coming to the fourteen North-Alabama Counties, & turn it over, & add it to the Salt received from A. G. McGehee, State Commissioner, and distribute it upon the same basis, & sell it at the same price which governs the distribution & Sale of the Salt manufactured by the State. So soon as you can determine this relative proportion, you will notify the Judge of Probate in each of the fourteen Counties above named, and also the State Agents at the proper depositories. A list of these agents - with their address, is, herewith furnished you. I have instructed these agents to retain, out of the shipments made to them from Virginia, the proportionate quantity reported, by you, to be due for Soldiers' Families, & to turn over such quantity - in bulk - to the County Commissioners of the respective Counties, to be distributed to the families of Soldiers, at $2.50/100 per Bushel. This arrangement will secure the proportionate supply for Soldiers' families, in every County in the State; and, also, by the exchange of Salt, as directed, the State will realize cost & charges, on the whole quantity manufactured & purchased. Your usual prompt attention is requested, to carry out these instructions.

Resp'y Your Obt Serv't
Jno Gill Shorter, Gov'r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Jan'y 13th, 1863.

Mr. Hopkins Rice, Clinton, Ala.

Dear Sir; In reply to your Enquiry, as to what action the State had taken, in respect to negroes impressed, who may have died, I have to say that the Legislature made no provision on the Subject. Several cases similar to the one you mention, have occurred, and it will be a matter for the Legislature or the Courts hereafter, to determine.

Respectfully, Your obt Serv't
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 14th 1863.

Gen'l Duff C. Green: 2. m. Gen. of Alabama, Mobile.

Sir; I herewith enclose to you Check of State Treasurer, on Bank of Mobile, for Ten Thousand dollars, as per your dispatch received to-day.

Very respectfully, Yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov'r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 14th, 1863.

Edward L. Johnston, Esq'r Randolph, Alabama

Sir, I am in receipt of your letter of 10th inst. with respect to the erection of obstructions and a battery at Claiborne. We are now building obstructions, in the Alabama & Tombigbee rivers, at Choctaw & Owen's Bluffs, which, with some 1000, or 1200 hands, will require some time to complete. My information is, that we are wanting, in large guns, for these batteries already built, and those at Mobile.

When these defenses are completed, & we can get guns to fortify Claiborne, and the Engineer Department will undertake it, it will give me pleasure to furnish the force which may be needful to strengthen the works, by obstruction or otherwise.

Very Respectfully,

Yours.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter,

Gov'r of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Jany 14th, 1863.

Hon: James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond.

Sir; I have deputed one of my Aids, Lieut. Eli S. Shorter, to visit Richmond, & communicate, in person, with you, upon the Military defense of South-Eastern Alabama, & West-Florida, adjoining our exposed territory. With this, I hand you a Copy of a letter addressed, by me to the President, on the 10th inst; to which, I respectfully, & earnestly ask your attention. I hope you will excuse the length of this communication, & my importunity, for the reason that I desire definite, & satisfactory advices from the War-Department, upon the several matters submitted. As early as the 4th of November last, I prepared and signed a letter to the President—a copy of which is herewith enclosed—which letter was forwarded, for the signatures of the Governors of Georgia, & Florida, & which, I am informed, was signed by them, & duly forwarded to the President. The object of this letter was to secure the organization of a new Military District, in the Territory described, & for the purposes mentioned in the letter. I have never been advised, whether the letter reached the President, or whether any action was had, as requested by the Governors of the three States named. In a hasty interview with the President, when he passed through Montgomery, on his way to Mississippi, he remarked that Genl. Cobb's command extended to the Choctawhatchee River in West-Florida. Gen. Cobb, in a letter of 27th December, says, "My District is one hundred & fifty miles wide, & extends from the Suwannee, to the Choctawhatchee." In reply to a Telegram, asking the boundaries of Gen. Cobb's District, Gen. S. Cooper dispatched me, on the 28th of December, that, "the boundaries of Gen. Cobb's District extend from the Suwannee to the Chattahoochee rivers, in Florida. He is, principally, charged with the defense of the Chattahoochee & Apalachicola rivers, against approaches of the Enemies' Boats, & his command, necessarily, embraces both sides of these Rivers." You see, therefore, I am still in doubt & uncertainty, as to the precise Territory in Georgia, Alabama, & Florida, which is embraced in the District commanded by Genl. Cobb. On this point, I ask for definite information; and, in the same connection, ask to be furnished with copies of the official orders, fixing, both, the District of Gen. Cobb, & the Mobile District—now commanded by Gen. Buckner. I wish, also, to call your attention to the condition of a Company of Sharp-Shooters, now in the service of the State, & employed, as a guard to works being constructed on the Chattahoochee River. This Company was raised in the Summer of 1862, at Eufaula, Barbour Co. Ala. & tendered to the State as one of the Companies forming our "State Guard!" The members of the Company are, nearly all, exempts, over the age of 35 years, but many of them are, now liable to enrollment, as Conscripts. It is a very efficient organization, & the Company is positively needed in the Valley of the Chattahoochee. I have therefore to request that this Company be allowed to volunteer, or to be turned over—from the State-service, into the Confederate service, for six months, or twelve months, & to report to Gen. Cobb, for duty, at one of the batteries on the Chattahoochee river. The Company is commanded by Capt. John Hardy, an efficient Officer, with Lieutenants of skill & gallantry. I beg your co-operation, also, in securing a suspension of the enrollment in the Counties of Barbour, Pike, Henry, Dale, Coffee, & Covington, & authority for Conscripts, in those Counties, to join the organization of Col. James A. Clanton, for Coast defense. The fact is, that West-Florida is so thinly populated, & the contiguous Counties of Alabama so denuded by their contributions to the Army, that unless an efficient force is sent to that Section, a few hundred men will be able to sally out from Choctawhatchee-Bay, & rob, & lay waste the Country. The Country, near the Coast, is the common retreat of deserters, from our Army—tories & run-away negroes. If Col. Clanton can complete his Regiment of Cavalry, & has authority to accept & muster-in two or three Companies of Infantry, & can get a section of Artillery, he can drive the Enemy to their Gunboats—protect our Salt-manufactures on the Coast—which are of urgent & great importance—and give security & Confidence to the whole population engaged in their peaceful pursuits. And these results cannot be accomplished in any other way. On account of small-pox at "Camp-Watts," Maj. Swanson has, very properly, directed, that the Conscripts must not be sent to Camp, until further orders. If allowed to join Col Clanton, & he be allowed to muster them in, as Infantry, Cavalry, or Artillery, as they may agree, the public service will be promoted. I shall have to depend, mainly, upon the Volunteers, without the Conscript-age,

for in the Counties enumerated there are but a few hundred Conscripts left. No Counties in Alabama have contributed their resources more freely, & unreservedly than they, & now, in their weakness & isolation, I appeal to the Confederate Government to allow their remaining few able to render military service, to organize for the protection of their own homes. I insist that this application is a most reasonable one, & the Country referred to has a right to expect a favorable response to it. Gen. Loff reports, on the 2d December last, only 800 Men, under his command, in his entire district. I trust it may be compatible with the public service, to allow him to reinforce his command. Upon the plan submitted, by him, to the Department. In conclusion, let me express the hope, that the Mission of my Aid-de-Camp may not be unavailing, & that the People of West Florida, & So. E. Alabama — who are advised of my Efforts in their behalf — as well as myself, may not be dis-appointed, in their & my own reasonable expectations.

Resp'y, Yr obt Servt.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter Govr of Ala.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala: Jan: 15th, 1863.

Hon: James A. Seddon, Secy of War, Richmond.

Sir; To complete the Contract for engraving & printing Treasury note change-bills for the State of Alabama, Messrs J. J. Patterson, Co. of Augusta, Geo. represent to me that the Services of Charles Meister, Private, Co. B. 10th Geo. Regt are necessary. I respectfully, ask that the Request be granted; & that Mr Meister may be detailed for this work, to report to Messrs J. J. Patterson, Co, At Augusta, Geo.

The Contract is more fully set-out, in letter of this date, sent herewith.

Very Resp'y Yr obt Servt.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery Ala. Jany 15th 1863

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secy of War; Richmond.

Sir; Messrs J. J. Patterson, Co. of Columbia, S. C. and Augusta, Geo; have a Contract with the State of Alabama, for engraving & printing $2.500.000 Treasury-Note change-bills, which will occupy some five or six weeks for its completion. For the performance of this work, the services of Moses S. Hall, W. J. Ryan, Wm. M. Eastman, Theodore A. Singer, & M. Jamieson, Lithograph-Printers- subject to Conscription- will be required; & I respectfully, request that you will cause the necessary orders for their Exemption or detail, to be forwarded to Messrs J. J. Patterson, Co. while engaged upon their Contract.

Very Resp'y Yr Obt Servt.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter. Govr of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Jany 15th 1863

To His Excellency, M. St. LeFlore, Govr of Choctaw Nation

Sir; It is with sincere pleasure, that I avail myself of this opportunity of assuring you, as the Governor of the Choctaw Nation, that the State of Alabama will, cordially unite with her sister Confederate States, in maintaining the Treaty-Stipulations, made by the Confederate States- & the Choctaw Nation, on the 17th day of June 1861. Alabama, as in the past, will, in the future, devote all her resources- of Men & means, for the common protection & defense of all her associates, including the Choctaw Nation

In Testimony whereof, I, John Gill Shorter, Governor of the State of Alabama, have, hereunto, set my hand, and affixed the Great Seal of the State, on the day & year above-written.

By the Governor;

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala.

(Signed) P. A. Pittman
Secy of State.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Jan. 15th, 1863.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richmond.

Sir: In a letter dated 12th inst. Maj. W. J. Walthall, Commandant of Instruction at Talladega, informs me, that a delay of a couple of days, in this City, about the 2d of December, has been made the occasion of complaint against him, by Maj. W. G. Swanson. This, I regret to hear, especially as Maj. Walthall remained over a day, at my urgent request, in order that he might have an interview with one of my military aids from the Northern portion of the State, in relation to the Public interests connected with the due execution of the Conscript Law. I am sure - had Maj. Swanson known this fact, he would not have predicated any Complaint upon the ground that Maj. Walthall remained over one day in Montgomery, on the occasion referred to. I feel it but just to Maj. Walthall, to make this statement to you; & to certify further, that, so far as my observation extends, he has been prompt & efficient, discreet, judicious, courteous & respectful in the discharge of the duties of his position; & as a Military Officer of the Confederate States, has endeavoured to act in harmony with the Civil & State Authorities. My intercourse with Maj. Swanson has been quite agreeable, & I am pained to hear of any dissatisfaction, which may have arisen between these highly competent & efficient Officers.

Resp'y, Your Obt Serv't
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 15th 1863.

Maj. W. J. Walthall, Head Quarters, Camps of Instruction, Talladega.

Sir, I am in rec't of yours of 12th Inst. in relation to the discharge, by you, & the second arrest subsequently of Mr Robert J. Smith of Randolph County, by Lieut. Col. Gaines. Your action, & advice in the premises are approved. Col. Hannon holds Mr Smith in Custody, awaiting the return of Lieut. Col. Gaines, who is expected to day, whose report will be submitted. If no disclosures are made complicating Mr Smith, I shall recommend his discharge.

Resp'y, Yr Obt Serv't
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Jany 15th 1863.

Messrs J. J. Patterson, & Co. Augusta, Geo.

Gentlemen; I enclose you, herein, a copy of a proposition made by "Adams' Southern Express Co", for transmission of the State Treasury notes to be prepared by you. By this mail, I have notified Mr St. V. Plant, President of the Company, that his proposition is accepted. You will, therefore please commence delivery to his Company, on the 20th inst. & weekly, thereafter, as per Contract. And you will permit me to express the hope, that, anterior to the 20th, you will arrange with Mr Plant as to the matter, so as to avoid any delay or disappointment.

Resp'y, Yr Obt Serv't
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Jan. 15th, 1863.

Mr St. V. Plant, Pres't Adams' Southern Express Co. Augusta, Geo.

Sir; I have, this morning, been furnished with a copy of your letter of the — inst. to A. D. Cropp, Esq. in which you propose to forward the State Treasury change bills, being furnished by Mess's J. J. Patterson, & Co. at Augusta, in Weekly remittances, at $.30c for each remittance; provided they are delivered to your Company, in good order for transportation, in sealed packages, one each week, until the whole Contract is delivered. This proposition will be agreeable to me, & I accept it, hoping that there may be no interruption, or disappointment in its execution. On this point, I have the assurance - founded upon the dispatch & energy, with which your Company has discharged its past engagements. I have, To-day, written Mess's Patterson, & Co. to deliver the notes to your Company. The first will be ready on the 20th, & Weekly, thereafter.

Resp'y, Yours,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

310

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 17th, 1863.

Peter Hamilton, Esq.s Chairman, En.e Committee, Mobile.

Sir; I am in receipt, to-day, of yours of 15th inst; for which accept my thanks. Your report & suggestions heartily approved. Enclosed, I have the pleasure to hand you the Check of the State-Treasurer, for Fifty Thousand Dollars.

I leave, on monday, for North-Alabama; shall, probably, be absent a fortnight. Should more funds be required in aid of Mobile Defenses, before my return, communicate with Gen.l George Goldthwaite, with whom I leave all needful authority to provide them. Please acknowledge receipt of the enclosed check, to Mr D. P. Graham, State-Treasurer Montgomery.

Resp'y, Yr Obt Ser.t
Jno Gill Shorter;

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Jan'y 17th, 1863.

Maj. Gen. S. B. Buckner, Head-quarters, Mobile.

Sir; In reply to the enquiries made by Col. Wimans, I beg to inform you that the State of Alabama—at the last Session of our Gen.l Assembly, appropriated two millions of Dollars for the support & maintenance of the indigent families of our Soldiers from this State in the public service. The money is distributed in due proportion, to each County, & the County Commissioners disburse it to the families in their respective Counties. The indigent families, in each County, should apply to the County Commissioners, for their subsistence.

After the abandonment of Pensacola, & the occupancy of the Coast, by the Enemy, a large number of the residents of Florida, removed to Alabama, & gathered, mostly at Pollard, & Greenville, & Montgomery. Among them were many families, who, deprived of all they had, have been dependant upon public Charity, for food, clothing, & house-room. Our people—as well as citizens of Florida, who had the means, have contributed liberally, to their support; but, the number was so great, that their contributions were insufficient. Orders were issued by Confederate authority, to issue them Rations, & to furnish Medical attention to the poor & needy refugees; & I hope, for the sake of Humanity that these orders will not be revoked.

Resp'y, Yr Obt Ser.t
(Signed) John Gill Shorter; Gov.r of Ala.

dep.t to here

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala, Jan'y 12th 1863.

To Hon.r _____

Judge of Probate of _____ County.

Sir; I enclose you, herewith, copies of official letters addressed to Gen. D. C. Green, Quarter-Master Gen. of Alabama, at Mobile, & to the various Probate Judges in Middle, & South Alabama. I also, enclose you, a copy of a circular letter, addressed to _____ Salt-Agent of the State, at _____, to whom the salt, for your County, will be shipped from Saltville Va.

These various letters, with the pamphlet-copies of the Salt-acts, which have been heretofore, mailed to you, will explain the whole system of Salt distribution. The Salt, turned-over to the County Commissioners, they will dispose of to Soldiers' families, at $ 2.50 per bushel of Fifty lbs, as directed, in Section 5, of Act-No 38. It is expected that the Commissioners will advance, from the fund received, for the support of the indigent families of Soldiers, an amount sufficient to supply such families with salt & distribute it gratuitously.

The proceeds of all salt turned-over to the Commissioners, must be paid over, promptly to the State-Agent, and a Report of each settlement, made with him, You will forward to Mr John A. Graham, Auditor of the State-Treasury at Montgomery.

Respectfully,
Your obt Ser.t,
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter
Gov of Ala.

Executive Department:
Montgomery, Jan. 12th, 1863.

To-----

Salt-Agent, for the County of-------

Sir; I enclose you, herewith, copies of official letters, addressed to Gen. D. H. Green, 2. nd. Gen. of Ala. at Mobile, & to the Judges of Probate, in the various counties of Middle, & So. Alabama. I also enclose you a copy of a Circular letter to the Judges of Probate, in the fourteen N. ala. Counties which are to be supplied with Salt, from Saltville, Va. These letters explain the differences in the Salt acts passed by the Legislature - so you can fully understand them, & the mode by which the Salt is to be distributed, & the price at which it is to be sold.

The Salt manufactured, & purchased by the State, is to be distributed upon the basis of the total population, & sold, by the Salt-Agents of the State, at cost & charges.

The Salt received from the Lessees of the salt-waters of the State, is to be distributed upon the basis of the white population, & the proportion of each County is to be turned-over to the County-Commissioners, in bulk, & by them, disposed of to soldiers' families, at the Uniform price of $2.50 per Bushel of fifty pounds, in every County in the State.

In order to supply the proportion due Soldiers' families for the County you represent, you are directed to retain, from the quantity, which you may receive from Saltville------ bushels, & turn the same over, in bulk, to the County Commissioners, to be distributed by them, as directed by Salt-Act- N° 38. The proportion, above given, is ascertained & reported by the 2. M. Gen. for the first distribution by the County Commissioners. The second distribution for Soldiers' families, cannot be had until he makes a shipment to every County of its first quota. When this shall have been done, he will notify you of the fact, & of the quantity which you will turn-over to the County Commissioners, for the second distribution; & so on, for the future.

You will receive, from the County Commissioners, the proceeds of the Salt turned-over to them, & place the amount to the credit of the State, in your a/c current with the State. You will forward an a/c, stated semimonthly, to Mr John A. Graham, Auditor of the Treasury, showing quantity of Salt sold, quantity unsold, & cash balance to the credit of the State.

I deeply regret that the people of North-Alabama have been, almost totally, deprived of the advantages, so confidently expected by me, from the favorable contracts for Salt, made for their exclusive benefit. The difficulty in transportation has been such, that no means which I could employ, have been sufficient to remedy it.

In addition to the State-Agent resident, at Saltville, I have employed a Special Agent of Transportation, on the Rail-Routes - a highly competent business-man - & every energy has been used to get the Salt through. My recent information induces the Hope that, before long, we may expect improved facilities.

Resp'y, Yr Obt Sert.
(Signed) Jn° Gill Shorter.

An appeal to the People of Alabama.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Dec. 22° 1862.

In view of the anticipated effect of the Conscript-Law upon the Militia System of the State, on the 12th day of May last, I invited the able-bodied men of Alabama - not subject to Conscription - to form Volunteer Companies. That invitation did not receive the attention it merited. The Legislature has adopted no law for the improvement of the Militia Organization of the State. The unpaired condition of that System leaves no means of making the remaining Military Strength of the State available for its protection & defense, except by the formation of Volunteer Companies. The State is now threatened from several directions. Our unscrupulous foe has collected all his resources, for one stupendous effort to subjugate & enslave us. He can never repeat the effort. He makes it the Crisis of his Cause: If foiled in this last desperate struggle, exhausted & dispirited, he must yield the contest. Our brave people may congratulate themselves upon the opportunity of hastening the achievement of peace & independence, by an exhibition of the fortitude & courage, necessary to defeat the Enemy, in this last great & Convulsive effort. The ultimate triumph of our glorious cause is now clearer than it ever has been. There is no reason for despondency. Our

people will not shrink in this -- their final trial. The splendid victory at Fredericksburg will be followed by still more decisive results upon other fields. By repeated shocks, the Enemy's vastly accumulated power will be broken. At no distant day, we shall enjoy, in the blessings of peace, & good government, a reward for all our suffering. Alabama must be true to herself, & do her duty in the Emergency. She must be ready to meet & quell the Domestic & Social disturbances, which may spring-up, as the tide of war approaches; to resist hostile raids; to protect her people, & their property, in any assailed quarter; to give death to every wanderer from the lines of the invading army, & if need be, to increase the strength of the Confederate forces, fighting upon our soil, in its defense. For the accomplishment of these objects, she looks & can look, only to the voluntary movement of a patriotic people -- too brave to suffer their Cities & towns to be sacked, their homes to be desecrated, & their country to be desolated, without striking a manly blow in their defense. I therefore, call, again, upon the men & youths of this State, exempted from the service of the Confederate States, by reason of their age, or other Cause, who are capable of bearing arms, to speedily organize themselves into Companies, to constitute a reserve force, subject to service in this State, upon the call of the Executive. They will be called into service, only when necessity requires it. Their services may never be needed, but it is the part of wisdom & manly courage to be ready. It is the part of folly & cowardice to wait until the Enemy's foot is upon our soil, & his muskets gleam in the hands of brutal soldiers at our doors. Shall I call, in vain, upon Alabamians to prepare to stand & fight upon their own soil, in its defense? Alabama has given freely of her sons to our country's cause, but her warlike strength is not yet exhausted. I send to her people my warning, & leave it for them to decide, whether, in the hour of trial which may be before us, they will be ready with as much of the remaining Military strength of the State as may be required.

People of Alabama! I must appeal to you, for your aid to the Government, in another matter. It is due to the great cause in which we are engaged -- it is just to those now bravely enduring the trials & perils of actual war, that all within the ages prescribed by the act of Congress -- known as the Conscript Law, should be in the service. A considerable number of persons, in every part of the State, both officers & privates, who belong to the army, & are fit for duty, are lingering at home, upon various pretexts, while their more manly & patriotic Comrades, with ranks thinned, & weakened by their absence, bear the shock of an unequal contest. So, too, a large number of persons, subject to Conscription, are shrinking from the toils & perils, which those of like age are bravely enduring, & hiding from the enrolling Officer, to whom patriotism requires that they should, promptly, report themselves. Now, when the Last great struggle of the war is upon us; now, when there is an opportunity to share in the closing triumphs of this great contest; now, when our soldiers in the field, standing with fearless resolution, amid sufferings & dangers, which would appall men less noble & brave, call upon those, of like age with themselves, for aid & relief; now, when every strong right arm is needed to strike the quick & effective blows, which are to give us peace, it is a shame & an iniquity, that those two classes of persons should, successfully, evade the service they owe to their country. Every Community owes it to its own reputation, & to the Country, to give no shelter to give no shelter to those who belong to the two classes above described, & to drive them, by the withering punishment of Public scorn, to their proper places. I call upon all the Officers, civil & military, of the State, and upon all good & patriotic citizens, to give all their influence, personal or official, to constrain those persons into the path of duty & patriotism; and I, especially invoke them to give their aid to the proper officers, in arresting & coercing those who refuse to yield to no gentler means. It may be a disagreeable task, but the evil is great & ruinous to our country's cause, & it is the part of the Patriot, now, to shrink from no task, however disagreeable, & dangerous it may be, when the Country calls. It is the pride of Alabama, that her Soldiers never falter upon the battle field. Let us hope that none will be permitted to hide, under cover of Home, from their appropriate duty. I subjoin directions to guide in the formation of Companies, under this Proclamation.

1. Each Company must consist of not less than forty Privates, four Sergeants, four Corporals, two Lieutenants, & a Captain. When the number of Privates in a Company exceeds Sixty it shall be entitled to another Lieutenant;

The Captain & Lieutenants will be elected by the Company, & the non-commissioned officers will be appointed by the Captain.

2. As soon as the requisite number of men shall have been enrolled, & the Company officers have been appointed, the Captain will make-out the muster-roll, showing the name-age and rank of every member of the Company, accompanied by the certificate of the Commanding officer, to the correctness of the Roll. These muster-rolls will be, at once, forwarded to Gen. St. P. Watson, Adjutant Gen. of Alabama Militia, when the Company will be, at once, accepted into the service of the state

3. The Companies thus formed, will be subject to the order of the Governor, but will not be called into actual service, except in cases of urgent necessity, & then they will be employed, only, for purposes of local & State defense.

4. Each Company will provide its own arms as far as possible, & the deficiency will be supplied by the State, when the Company is called into actual service. Captains of Companies will be authorized to purchase all the powder & lead which can be procured in their respective neighbourhood, & upon properly-certified vouchers, the State will pay for the same, which will be retained, for Company use, to be accounted for by Company Commanders. It is earnestly hoped that every man in the State, who has in his possession, either arms or munitions, which he is not able to use in the public service, will place them at the disposal of his neighbours, who attach themselves to this organization.

5. It is not intended that this organization shall interfere with the business pursuits of the people, as the Companies will be called into service, in cases of actual necessity, but, for the purpose of acquiring some proficiency in drill, I request, that, in all our cities & large towns, the business-houses may be closed at 3 o'clock, P.M. that the balance of the day may be devoted to drilling; & that Companies organized in the Country, will, as often as practicable, not to interfere too seriously with their industrial pursuits. Even should this arrangement occasion some inconvenience, the public safety requires it, and no good Citizen will hesitate to adopt it.

6. All Companies reported under this Proclamation will be enrolled, as part of the State Guard. When called into service, they will be paid & subsisted by the State, as other troops. Should it be thought necessary, the Companies will be united into Battalions & Regiments, and, in that event, the Field-Officers will be appointed by the Governor.

7. All Companies-desiring to do so-may, by complying with its provisions, be regarded as an organization, under the act of Congress, of 18th October, 1862, a copy of which is appended to this proclamation. Companies-desiring to be so organized should report to me.

In testimony whereof, I, John Gill Shorter, Governor of the State of Alabama, have hereunto, set my hand, & Caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, this the 22d Day of Dec. A.D. 1862, and of the Confederate States, the Second Year.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.
Governor of Alabama.

By the Governor
(signed) P. A. Brittan, Sec'y of State

An Act to authorize the formation of Vol: Companies, for Local defense.

The Congress of the Confederate States do enact: that, for the purpose of local defense, in any portion of the Confederate States, any number of persons, not less than twenty, who are over the age of forty-five years, or, otherwise, not liable to military duty, may associate themselves, as a Military Company, elect their own officers, establish rules & regulations, for their own government, and shall be considered as belonging to the Provisional army of the Confederate States serving without pay or allowances, & entitled, when captured by the Enemy, to all the privileges of prisoners of war; Provided, that such Co. shall, as soon as practicable, transmit their muster-roce-or a list of the names of the officers & privates to the Governor of the State-the Commanding General of the Department-or any Brig.r Gen.l in the State or Confederate Service, to be fowarded to the Sec.y of War: but the Pres.t or the Commander of the Military District may, at any time, disband such Companies: Provided, that, in the States or Districts, in which the acts entitled "an act to provide for the public Defense," approved, April 16th 1862, & the acts amendatory thereof, have been suspended, persons of any age, resident within such States or Districts, may volunteer & form such companies, so long as such suspension may continue: Provided, however, that no person shall become a member of said Company, until he shall have first taken the oath of allegiance to the Confederate States of America, in writing, a copy of which shall be filed with the muster-roll of said Company, as above prescribed.

Approved, Oct 13th 1862.

Index to here

-311

Alabama State Bonds for Sale.

Executive Department;

Montgomery, Ala. Jan: 6th, 1863

Notice is hereby given that by virtue of an act of the late Session of the General Assembly, I offer for sale, Bonds of the State of Ala., bearing Six per cent interest, to the amount of $500.000, having twenty years to run from January 1st 1863., renewable, at the pleasure of the State, with interest coupons attached, payable on the 1st March next, & annually, there after, at the State Treasury, where the principal sum also is redeemable. These bonds are exempted from Taxation, & the coupons are receivable in payment of all public dues to the State. The several bids must be sent, under seal, to this Department, & indorsed "bid for Alabama Bonds." They will be received & filed until the first day of February next, on which day, they will be opened. The Bonds will be ready for delivery, on that day, and parties whose bids may be accepted, will be required to pay the money into the State Treasury, by the 10th Day of February next.

(Signed) John Gill Shorter. Governor of Alabama.

Executive Department

Montgomery, Ala. Jany 8th. 1863

Notice is hereby given that the "act to prevent extortion", approved Decr 9th, 1862, is suspended as to all Cargo-sales of foreign imports, Made by the importer.

In testimony whereof, I, John Gill Shorter, Governor of the State of Alabama, have hereunto set my hand, & caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, this the 8th day of Jan A.D. 1863, & the 2d year of the Independence of the Confederate States of America.

(Signed) John Gill Shorter, Govr of Ala.

By the Governor,
(Signed) P. A. Bolling, Sec. of State.

"O" to here

Executive Department

Montgomery, Ala. Feby 5th, 1863.

Maj. W. G. Swanson, Commandant, &c at Camp Watts.

Notasulga.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed, you will find a copy of a letter, addressed to Gov. Shorter, from the War Department at Richmond, by which you will perceive that all Conscripts from the Counties of Barbour, Henry, Dale, Coffee, Covington & Pike, are ordered to join Col. Clanton's command, for the defense of South-Eastern Alabama, & the Coast of Florida. You will, therefore, please instruct your enrolling Officers, in Each of the above named Counties, to proceed with their Enrollments, & hold the Conscripts subject to the order of Col. Clanton. You will, also, oblige me by furnishing this Department, a Statement of the number of Conscripts, now in your Camps, who were enrolled in the said Counties, & retain them until the proper requisition is made upon you for them, by Col. Clanton.

By order of Gov. Shorter,
(Signed) Eli S. Shorter, Aid de Camp.

Executive Department.

Montgomery, Ala. Feby 9th, 1863.

Gen. Brayton Bragg, Head-Quarters, Tullahoma, Tennessee.

Sir; I have the honor to Enclose a letter from Mrs Emily M. Hewlett, in relation to the Capture & detention of her husband, A. A. Hewlett.

I know I need any thing to the anxious appeal of a wife to learn something of the Condition & Safety of her husband — captive in the hands of the Enemy, to induce your Earnest Endeavours in her behalf, to the extent of your ability.

Very Respy Yr obt Servt
signed John Gill Shorter
Govr of Ala.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala, Feb. 9th. 1863.

Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War, Richd. Va.

Sir; I respectfully, enclose, for your favorable consideration, a letter from Lieutenant Sam[l] E. Chapman, Co. B. 43[d] Alabama Regiment.

Mr Chapman, having been elected Sheriff of Marengo County, in August last, on the 15th of January last, tendered his resignation of his Lieutenancy, which was approved by his Regimental & Brigade Commanders, & disapproved by his Major General.

I would, respectfully, call your attention to the fact, that Sheriffs are executive officers of the State, not liable to Military duty, by State or Confederate Law; and ask that you will give such orders, as will enable Mr Chapman to enter upon the duties of his office, which needs his attention.

Very Resp[y] Yr Obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department,
Montgomery, Ala. Feb. 9th 1863.

Ebenr. Farrand, Commander C.S. Navy, Selma, Ala.

Sir, Absence had prevented an earlier reply to your note of the 2d Inst, enclosing letter to you from Brig[r] Gen. D. Ledbetter, Chief of Engineer Department, at Mobile, under date of 20th Ult & a copy of your reply. I have duly considered the proposition of Gen. Ledbetter, which he likewise submitted to me, in a letter addressed to this Department on the 29th Ult. The question submitted is not without embarrassment. The difficulty of obstructing large rivers like the Alabama & the Tombigbee against iron-clad gunboats, is admitted by every one; & it is due to you that I should frankly state, that after many repeated efforts to induce the Engineer Department to undertake the work, or to determine some practicable plan by which the State Authorities could do it, I failed to obtain any suggestion of a plan which the Engineer Department was prepared to indorse, & recommend. This failure or omission, I am sure, was not owing to any disposition to evade duty, but from the Department was without those precedents or tests — the possession of which was necessary to inspire that confidence & responsibility. The new Era of Gun-boats has painfully baffled the inventive brain of Engineers, and, as yet, all obstructions — except such as may be designated solid or permanent, in the bed of the stream, are held & pronounced as experimental merely. When, as Executive of the State of Alabama, I invoked your counsel & co-operation, in aid of our river defenses, it was with the highest appreciation of your skill & patriotic devotion; & I found, as I expected, that you had the nerve to suggest plans worthy of adoption, in my own opinion, as in the opinion of many enlightened citizens of Alabama; & I, therefore, desired, by every means in my power, to hasten their completion under your superintendence & advice. In this way, I fully assumed, with you, all the responsibility involved in the practicability & adaptation of the works to the purposes intended. Now Gen. Ledbetter proposes to relieve us of this responsibility, so far as concerns the works on the Tombigbee river, and he bases the proposition on the ground stated in his letter to you, that "the depth of water, at Oven Bluff, is not very great." In his letter to me, he says, "The only objects of this proposition were to gain time in completing the obstructions, & to make trial of the system of Sawyers — a plan which has been adopted elsewhere — & is recommended by the C.S. Engineer Bureau. It also meets the approval of Gen. Buckner, & he has, to-day, directed me to have the Sawyers constructed, & placed in position". He further adds, "I trust that Capt. Farrand will feel no sensitiveness on this subject, for there is, no where, any intention to trespass on his domains. It is only an effort to help in the Common Cause". This letter of Gen. Ledbetter to me, is indorsed by Gen. Buckner: to wit, "The suggestions of Gen. Ledbetter meet with my entire approval. Resp[y]. S. B. Buckner, Maj. Gen[l] Comm[g]". In view of the reasons stated, & the removal of all responsibility from our shoulders as to the work in the Bigbee, & the handsome, just disclaimer in respect to yourself, I have determined to accept the proposition of Gen[l] Ledbetter, & to turn over the hands, timber, tools &c, at Oven Bluff, as referred to in his proposition, & will write him, accordingly, by the next Mail. I have requested Gen. Goldthwaite to go down the river, & confer with you, as to the work on the Alabama river, & to furnish you any additional assistance required for its speedy completion. He will, also, visit Oven Bluff & Mobile before his return. Herewith, enclose the correspondence which you sent me, having retained copies of the same. Renewing my congratulations on your successful launch of the iron-clad batteries, & with the assurance of my high regards, I am, resp[y] Yr Obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov. of Ala.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala. Feby 10th, 1863.

Gen. D. Leadbetter. Chief of Engineers, Mobile, Ala.

Sir; You will much oblige- as well as facilitate transportation, by forwarding a Genl. order, to Maj. E. Harris, in charge of transportation at this post, to furnish transportation, for Slaves, & implements to Mobile, sent under impressment-orders, to fill requisitions from your department. The State Qr. Master finds trouble & difficudly, in the settlement of his accounts, & therefore, I am induced to trouble you with this request.

Very Resp'y, Yr obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala-

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala: Feb. 10th 1863

N. A. Pratt, Esq: Chemist C. S. Nitre & Mining Bureau, Augusta, Geo

Sir; I am in receipt of your letter of the 8th inst. in reference to the use of public lands of the State of Alabama, for the manufacture of Potash. The State will cheerfully, lease the right to use these lands for that purpose, for a limited time, with the privilege of cutting the timber upon liberal terms. It is not the policy of the State to put the public lands upon the Market, until the termination of the war, when her Soldiers can compete in the purchase. But I am authorized by Law, to lease these Lands, & all that parties have to do, will be to come & see me, with Sworn copies of their Contracts with your Bureau & the lease can be easily arranged to advance the interests of your department.

Very Resp'y, Yr
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala.

Executive Department.
Montgomery, Ala. Feb 9th 1863.

Brig. Gen: Howell Cobb, Head-Quarters, Quincy, Florida.

Sir; I have directed Col. Eli S. Shorter, one of my Aids-de-Camp, to visit your head-quarters, & assure you of the satisfaction entertained by me, & the citizens of Alabama, in the Valley of the Chattahoochee River, for the action of the War-Department, in assigning you to your present Command; & also, personally, in my own behalf, to express to you, the cheerful co-operation, with which I shall sustain you, by every means in my power. Col Shorter is directed to submit to you copies of correspondence had by me with the War-Department, in reference to the organization of Troops, for the defense of Alabama, & West Florida; & he will explain the details & progress already made, in execution of my plans, which, I am sure will be cordially approved by you.

Resp'y Yr Obt Ser't.
(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter, Gov of Ala

nd to here.

Executive Department;
Montgomery, Ala: Feb. 10th 1863.

P. Hamilton, Esq: Chairman Executive Committee, Mobile.

Sir; Absence from a visit to North Alabama, whence I returned, on Saturday last, has prevented an earlier reply to your interesting letter of 22d Ult. I regret my inability, for want of time, to discuss, fully, the various suggestions contained in your letter. You may rest assured, of my ardent desire to do, whatever may be within the scope of my authority & means, to aid in the defense of our Seaport City; but I say to you, in all frankness, that if the citizens of Mobile insist upon certain conditions, to be conceded by the Military Authorities before they will unite, in voluntary organizations, for the defense of their own homes, & dearest rights, they will remain without any organization, other than the inefficient lumbering, Militia system. One of the special purposes, for which I convened the Legislature, in advance of its regular session, was to amend our military organization, & make it more effectual for the protection of the State, and I was deeply grieved that the Legislature failed to pass a solitary amendment to the Militia Code. It was believed that there should be a separate Military organization for Mobile. A bill, for that purpose, was introduced, & defeated. I did not read the bill, but approved the plan, & hoped some bill, looking to this end, could have been adopted. As nothing was done by the Legislature, I issued my Proclamation, urging the formation

of Volunteer companies of "State-Guards," believing they would be more efficient than the skeleton militia-organizations left us. Thus, we have these two systems. Companies forming the "State-Guard" are not militia. They elect their own officers, & when formed into battalions, or Regiments, I reserved the right to appoint the Field-officers. This I did, in order to secure efficient Commanders: but if the companies desired certain officers, whom I believed competent; it would be a pleasure to me to assign them the officers of their choice. No Commissions will be issued, Company, or Regimental, until the organizations are completed. The plan is a simple one. The Companies form: elect their officers; & tender to the Executive, with their muster-rolls. They are then accepted — but not ordered into service. They may - or may not be, hereafter; & when enough to form a Battalion or Regiment, in any given locality, are tendered, they will be thus organized & Field-officers appointed for them, or their own choice approved & Commissioned. Now, however much I appreciate the merits of the gentlemen, whose names are mentioned in your letter, the plan does not admit of their appointment, & commission, by me, in advance of any battalion, or Regimental organization, should they lend their energies & skill to the State, in raising the companies mentioned, & it should appear that the men desired them as their Commanding officers, these facts would be strongly persuasive of the propriety of tendering to them the Command. On the other hand, it should not be expected that the Executive would surrender the power of securing an efficient organization, as the responsibility of appointments rests with him. There is another matter, to which, it is my duty to refer, particularly; & that is, the condition, spoken of by you, which should stipulate that the Companies - formed by citizens of Mobile, shall not be ordered beyond the limits of the City. This condition is wholly inadmissible. If they enter the Military service, they must be subject to all military orders, without condition. Whether they would be sent beyond the City, would depend, entirely, as it should, upon the exigencies of the case, of which the Officer in command, would be the judge. One thing is certain - & that is - if our State should be invaded, by an attack on Mobile, the whole Military power of the State, adjacent to the locality, would be compelled to repel the Enemy. "State-Guards" would be ordered into service, & if no "State-Guards," the Militia, as a last resort, would be called for to aid in the general defense. The citizens of Mobile who expect to remain, if the enemy attacks, & who may liable to render Military Service to the State, can choose their own organizations. There are but two — The "State-Guards" & the Militia. The Militia-System is admitted to be wholly inefficient. This is a sad misfortune, but it is not my - or your fault. It is badly officered - as a general thing; this is the fault of the people, who elected the officers. I can use the organization, as I find it; & if it comes to the worst, I will make all out of it I possibly can. But, knowing its defectiveness, is it not the part of wisdom, to remedy this, by the organization of volunteer companies & battalions? No greater liability is, thereby, assumed, and every consideration of patriotic duty recommends it. If, in view of the dangers before them, & the immense interests at Stake, The people fold their arms in inaction, & prepare not for the shock when it comes upon them, They will have no right of just complaint against others, for not doing their duty.

Resp'y, Yr Obr Servt.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Executive Department
Montgomery, Ala. Feb 10th 1863.

Brig. Gen. D. Leadbetter, Chief of Engineers, Mobile.

Sir, I respectfully, forward the enclosed letter of Wm S. Mince, Esq. in relation to a slave of Mr William A. Melton, of Perry County, now more than three months detained under impressment, and hope it may consist with your view of duty, that the slave may be discharged, & returned to his Master.

Very Resp'y,

Your obt Servt.

(Signed) Jno Gill Shorter.

Gov of Ala